



A Timeline Of Brown County 1838 - 2023

By Frank T. Hilton & Clay Riley



Forward

This is a chronological date listing of the events, organizations and activities that happened in Brown County from 1838 to 2020.

It is an evolving timeline in that dates will be added, information corrected, photos added, as additional data is discovered. The information on the front page will give you the date this timeline was last updated. This document is provided in a searchable pdf format.

Please send any corrections or additions to: hilton17@web-access.net

Information for this timeline was taken from many different sources. That includes the *Brownwood Bulletin*, *The Daily Bulletin*, *The Brownwood Banner*, The Lorene Bishop Collection, various historical books published by the Brown County Historical Society, individual published documents, pamphlets, the Internet, Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce, Early Chamber of Commerce, and other places, too numerous to mention here.

All rights are reserved by the authors. Profits from this book will go to the Pecan Valley Genealogy Society to further the research for the history of Brown County and its people.

**Updated
June 2022
Brown County, Texas**

September, 1838 – John Belden, and his assistants, George L. Bledsoe and M. A. Bigham, made the first land surveys within the area of present Brown County.

1846 – William Wallace, a deputy surveyor for the Bexar Land District, came into Brown County with seven helpers and remained for nearly eight months running surveys on eighty-six different tracts of land. Wallace ran a survey for the heirs of a notable revolutionary hero, Dr. James Grant. (*Something About Brown*)

1847 – Two additional surveying parties were busy in the county. (*Something About Brown*)

1850 - The Zephyr, Texas, community was initially located on the banks of Blanket Creek. The name Zephyr, meaning soft, gentle wind, was first used by land surveyors who were trapped in the area during a blue norther. A school was founded in 1876. Zephyr's first store opened in 1878 and a post office was established the following year. In 1885, the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway completed a line from Brownwood to Lampasas that missed Zephyr by approximately a mile. Store owner J.M. Wilson moved his store and the post office one mile east to its present site. The community would later become a station on the railroad.

1852 – Six different parties in the county engaged in surveying. This activity continued until the close of 1854, with some four hundred tracts being staked. (*Something About Brown*)

1854 – Welcome W. Chandler, Israel Clements, Samuel R. Coggin, and J. H. Fowler visited the county and decided to settle in the new land. (*Something About Brown*)

1856 – James H. Fowler was the first cattleman in Brown County, who drove the cattle into the county.

1856 – Camp Colorado was established on Mukewater Creek near the Colorado River as part of a secondary line of defense against the Indians.

August 27, 1856 – Brown County created by Texas State Legislature. This is the official birthday of Brown County. Brown is named for Henry Stevenson Brown, a commander at the Battle of Velasco. . It was formed from land taken from Travis and Comanche counties, and out of Travis and Milam land districts. (*Frontier's Generation*) The Settlement of Brownwood began on the east side of the Pecan Bayou.



July, 1856 – Welcome W. Chandler bought a tract of land from an agent at Austin; the land was located in Brown County. Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, accompanied by their eight children, and by seven Negroes, who were their slaves, set out for their new home. (*Frontier's Generation*)

Welcome Chandler

1857 – The community of Thrifty was established after the U.S. Army relocated Camp Colorado, a frontier defense post, along nearby Jim Ned Creek. The first family to settle permanently in the area was that of Charles Mullins, who three sons and one daughter and their families established ranches and homes in the Jim Ned Creek Valley.

March 21, 1857 – The first election was held in Brownwood County in the home of Welcome W. Chandler. None of the elected officers ever serve as the legislature's order forming the county was faulty, having outlined the borders of the county incorrectly. This was corrected by the lawmakers in 1858, and a new election was held.

November, 1857 – This is the date of the first Indian raid into Brown County; the settler named Lewis, who came here that same year, was killed at his home on Steppes Creek. The Indians, after killing him, rounded up his stock, and made a quick getaway. (*Frontier's Generation*)

1858 - The first courthouse was built on the Chandler farm. It was a single story, 16 X 18 log structure built of logs harvested from the nearby Pecan Bayou. The courthouse was seated with split log benches. Ichabod Adams donated a rawhide bottom chair for the use of the judge. The papers, records, and other items of importance were kept in a flour sack.

February 5, 1858 – Brownwood legally came into existence.

August 23, 1858 – The Brownwood Post Office was established and put on the Federal government map.

1859 - The first site of the Courthouse did not have a reliable source of good water. Therefore, it was moved, log by log, to the Connell farm. The Masons added a second floor to use as a Masonic Lodge. This courthouse was located on the East side of the Pecan Bayou.

February 20, 1860 – First Post Office established with Welcome W. Chandler as Postmaster.

1860 – Greenleaf Fisk came to Brown County. He first taught school in Brownwood; later he became Chief Justice. He offered 60 acres for a townsite, and 100 acres for county purposes. (*Frontier's Generation*)

1869 –(*Brownwood Bulletin*) Brownwood's first industry was a primitive flour mill built by James Kennibrew on a site near the present location of the old county jail building.

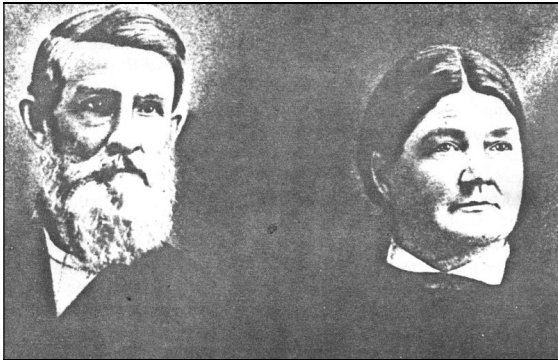
1860 – The population of Brown County was 244. (U.S. Census)

1861 – First school taught by J. J. Gallop, it was a private school.

February 23, 1861 – The people of Brown County gathered at the home of Welcome Williams Chandler to formally celebrate the birth of the Confederacy. (*Frontier's Generation*)

1862 – Blanket, Texas. Two of the earliest settlers in the area were F. M. Cross and Dan Pinkard. Pinkney Anderson established a store in 1873 and was the first postmaster when a post office was established in 1875. When the Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railroad was extended from

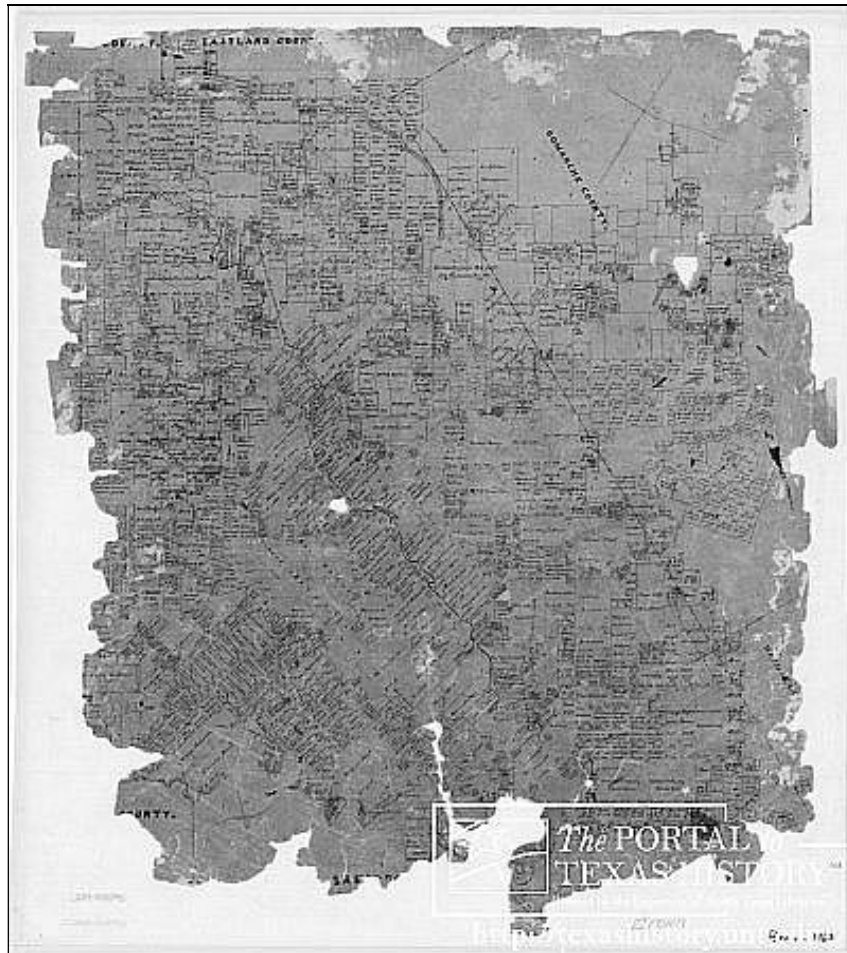
Comanche to Brownwood in 1891, Blanket was moved from its former site to its present location.



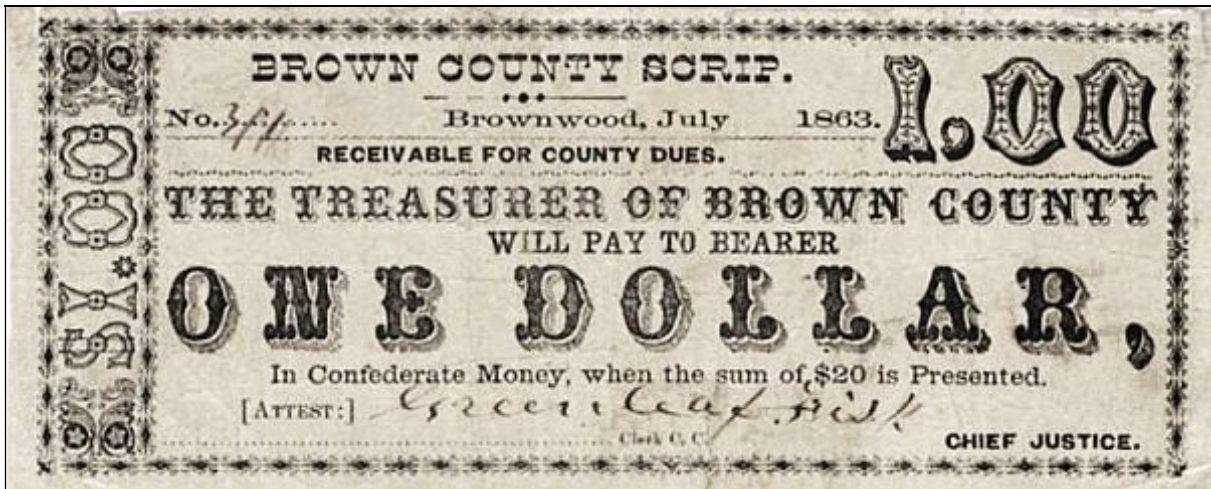
William Jordan Vann – Irena Glover Vann

1863 – Zephyr's first known pioneer family arrived, settling on the banks of the Blanket Creek about one mile east of the present site of Zephyr – Lazarus Vann, his son, William Jordan Vann and his family. (*Zephyr Yesterday and Today*)

1863 – The first church organized in the county was a Methodist congregation in the Hannah Valley community. The church was organized by two Methodist ministers, George Vest and William Mayberry, both residents of Comanche county.



1863 Brown County Map



Brown County Scrip

July, 1863 – During the Civil War, Brown County was forced to issue Scrip being as U.S. Dollars were not available. Here is a photo of one of those Scripts issued by the county.

Name & Rank: Anderson, W. C., Pvt.,
 Comm. Off: Skaggs, D. & Duncan, N. C., Capts.,
 Organ: Co. 2nd Fron. Dist., Brown Cty.,
 Maj. Geo. B. Erath Comdg., TST.
 Enlist: F. 5-64 in Brown County; Mus. in
 Same date & place.
 Disch: Serv. 10 days at \$2.00 - \$20.00.
 Descrip: Age 23

Remarks: R&F 69; En. Off. B.W. Lee; Mus. Off.
 Maj. G.B. Erath; Co. org. under Act of D. 15-63;
 Arms: 1 rifle & 1 pistol; 1 mus. roll dtd.
 F. 5-64; 1 payroll dtd. F. 5 to June 1-64; Skaggs
 is shown as being the Capt. on the Muster
 (over)

1864 – W. C. Anderson Muster Card, Brown County, Texas

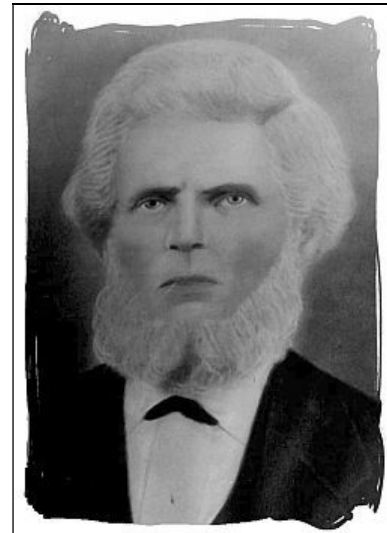
March, 1864 – Brown County Frontier Regiment was organized.

March 11, 1865 – First meeting of the Masonic Lodge held. The Masons had built a second story to the courthouse, located by the William Connell place, the second location of the county government

June 13, 1865 – A charter was issued to the Masonic Lodge. The first meeting place was on the second floor of the first Brown County Courthouse, which was a log structure. The court occupied the lower floor of the building. James E. Stiles was the worshipful master and Isaac Mullins, the senior warden.

1868 – The Greenleaf Cemetery was established. Greenleaf Fisk gave five acres to the town for a burial place, and two and one half acres each the Pecan Valley IOOF Lodge No. 236, October 26, 1883, and to the Brownwood Masonic Lodge No. 141 AF and AM, December 3, 1883, making a total of ten acres for burial purposes.

There has been four additions to the cemetery since then and now has over 18,000 burials. A section was set aside in 1958 for members of the Catholic denomination. The cemetery was named Round Mountain and later renamed Greenleaf.



Judge Greenleaf Fisk

1870 – The County Courthouse was moved from the East side of the Bayou to land donated by Greenleaf Fisk on the West side. The log courthouse was once again disassembled and moved, but the puncheon floors were replaced with sawn planks. The two story building was reassembled on the corner of E. Broadway (now N. Fisk), and Clark (now Water). This building was considered too small by 1876, just 5-6 years after it was moved.

1870 – The population of Brown County was 544, an increase of 123.0% over 1860. (U.S. Census) A post office was authorized permanently in Brownwood.



Stagecoach

1870 – Chidester Stage Company established a stage coach line between Brownwood and Fort Worth. It left Ft. Worth daily at 9 a.m. and reached Brownwood the following morning at 7 am. From Ft. Worth to Coleman they had a four-horse stage, similar to the photo. They pick up new horses about every 15 miles, at Bluff Dale, Stephenville, Dublin, Hasse, Comanche and Blanket on their way to Brownwood. This stage line went from St. Louis through North Texas to El Paso and on to San Francisco. Ceased in 1881.

February 1870 – Hog Creek Indian fight.

1873 – 74 – The first public schools opened in Brown County. With a student population of 332 they were housed in eight schools – all log structures. Children's education since 1856 had been private.

1874 - John Wesley Hardin and gang celebrate his 21st birthday in Brown and Comanche Counties. Deputy Charles Webb draws his gun, provoking a gunfight that ends Webb's life. A lynch mob is formed, but Hardin and his family is put into protective custody. The mob breaks into the jail and hangs his brother Joe and two cousins. Hardin flees.

1874 – The first sawmills, grain mills and gins were established in Brown County.

1875 – Francis Harris opened a store in 1875 that became the nucleus for the future town of Indian Creek. (*Something About Brown*)

1875 – The *Brownwood Banner*, published every Thursday, began publication with Col. W. H. Martin as publisher.

1874 - 1875 The Fort Worth-Brownwood stage was robbed five times in two months.

June 10, 1875 – Blanket post office authorized. Pinkney Anderson was the first postmaster. (*The Promise Land*)

July 10, 1875 – Pinkney Anderson was appointed Postmaster for Blanket, Texas.

September 18, 1875 - The Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized by Rev. S. M. Lewis of Little River Presbytery. Rev. R. W. Lewis was first pastor. (*The Promise Land*)

November 27, 1875 – The first newspaper published in Brownwood was "The Pecan Valley Eagle." It was a very short lived newspaper. (November 15, 1883, *The Austin Weekly Statesman*)

1876 – First public school opened, the location was at 300 Main.

1876 –First Baptist Church, Brownwood, Live Oak Baptist Church, 10 miles south of Brownwood, February 10; Elm Baptist Church, later named Pleasant Valley church, August 11; Blanket Baptist church, August 12; And Mount Zion Baptist Church, August 12. (*The Promise Land*)

1876 - A school was founded in May.

1876 - The citizens of Brown County approved bonds for a new courthouse. It was completed in January or February of 1877. It was two stories, and was 22 ½ feet by 42 ½ feet. The jail was on the first floor and the courtroom was on the second floor. The jail was built on Pecan Street near Water Street.



Zephyr's First School

1876 – Zephyr's first schoolhouse was built in 1876 on a plat of land given by J. W. Braddock. It was a one-room log cabin situated in about the center of Bee Branch community, where the cemetery is located today. A little post oak tree standing near the head of Isham Smith's grave in 1938 was near the East door of this schoolhouse.

The little log cabin had a dirt floor and was furnished with split log benches. It has an enrollment of 15 pupils, each paying \$1.50 per month tuition. The Rev. T. A. Ish was the first teacher.

April 15, 1876 – J. C. Weakley came to Brownwood from Comanche to put the roof on a building at Center Ave and South Broadway. He opened a business in the middle of the block on South Broadway facing the Brown County Courthouse.



Brooke Smith

July 1, 1876 - Brooke Smith opened the Pecan Valley Bank after moving to Brownwood the year earlier and opening a general store on the southwest corner of the courthouse square. The bank was in the back of the store. Charley Steffins was the first bookkeeper.

1876 - Indian Creek, TX, on Farm Road 586 in southern Brown County, was named for a local watercourse.

September 10, 1876 – The First Presbyterian Church (southern) was organized in the home of John Ross under the guidance of the Rev. B. T. McClelland. (*The Promise Land*)

September 11, 1876 - A post office was established in Francis Harris's general store, and that same year a school was built in Tom McAden's pasture. The community had two stores, a cotton gin, and a blacksmith shop in 1879. (*Something About Brown*)

1877 – Brownwood was incorporated.

1877 – First cotton gin built by Brooke Smith near the flour mill. No record as to where that was.

October 11, 1877 – Owens post office was opened. The office first was called Clio, but the name was changed to Owens on June 6, 1910. John W. Yantis was first postmaster. (*The Promise Land*)

November 6, 1877 – Byrd's post office was established. The office first was called Byrd's Store but was changed to Byrd's March 19, 1896. The community is still called Byrd's Store by many people. Martin Byrd was the first postmaster. (*The Promise Land*)

1878 – Cross Cut, Texas was founded when John M. Bloodworth opened a store and served as the first Postmaster. When the post office opened in 1879, the name of the town was changed to Cross Cut. (*Handbook of Texas*)

1879 – May, Texas was named for pioneer settler W.D. May. May's brother, Nathan, opened a store at the site in 1879. A post office was established two years later. In 1907, May had a blacksmith shop, general store, newspaper, and a bank. That same year, the community became a stop on the Brownwood North and South Railway. The line was abandoned in 1927.

1879 – Post Office opened in Zephyr in a small store near the old Blanket Creek Bridge. The store was established by J. M. Wilson.

1879 – The first Oil well that was discovered in Texas was located on the corner of Fisk and Baker Street in Brownwood, at the site of the former Brownwood Hotel, by a crew digging a water well.

April 9, 1879 – the post office in Cross Cut was opened with James M. Bloodworth as postmaster. (*The Promise Land*)

December 20, 1879 – The post office in Zephyr was opened with John M. Wilson as postmaster. (*The Promise Land*)

1880 – The population of Brown County was 8, 414. An increase of 1,446 % over 1870. (U.S. Census)

March 29, 1880 – The Brown County courthouse was burned by arson. Courthouse arson was, unfortunately, common during this time period, and was often used to destroy evidence of land fraud or crime. For many years after the Brown County Courthouse burned, citizens speculated that it was burned to destroy evidence of a grand jury indictment of a prominent citizen.



1880 – Courthouse Square

November 9, 1880 – The post office in Thrifty was established with George W. Allen as postmaster. (*The Promised Land*)

November 30, 1881 – The post office in May was opened with James W. Atchison as postmaster. (*The Promised Land*)

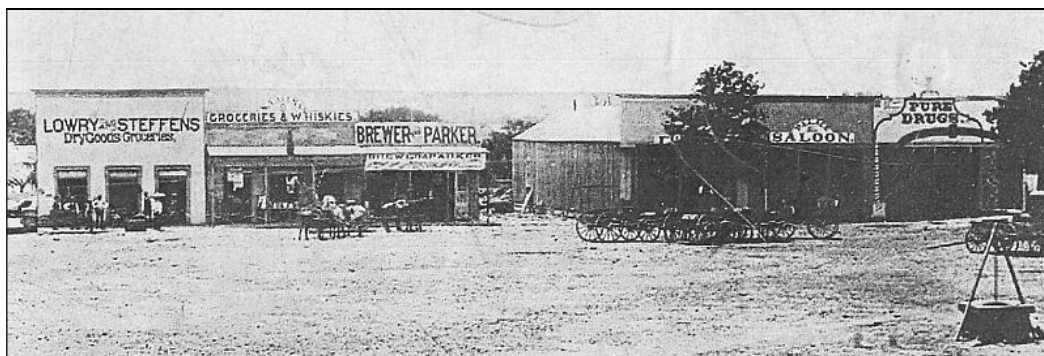
1882 – The Mount Zion Methodist Church was organized on Hog Creek about two miles northeast of Byrd’s Store. (*The Promised Land*)

1882 – The Episcopal Church was organized with Mrs. William H. Scott, Mrs. Charles Bean, Herbert Stone and Brooke Smith among the charter members. (*The Promised Land*)

January 1, 1883 – Brown County had 42,788 cattle; 51,064 sheep; 10, 341 horses; 2,606 goats; and 12, 939 hogs. These latter subsisted entirely upon the prolific growth of mast furnished by the oak and pecan forests. (November 15, 1883, *The Austin Weekly Statesman*)

June 3, 1883 – Brownwood Independent School District was incorporated.

August, 1883 – A petition for a Zephyr Masonic Lodge was presented. John M. Wilson was the First Worshipful Master. Charter officially dated December 12, 1884.



West Side of Public Square in 1883

September 22, 1883 – In less than two hours nine buildings on the west side of the public square were reduced to ashes, destroying 12 businesses in Brownwood. A general alarm was sounded by bells, whistles and shooting of pistols. There was no waterworks, engines or facilities for putting out the fire in Brownwood. The Coggin Opera House a stately stone structure narrowly escaped. That two-story rock building is still standing today on the corner of South Broadway and Center Streets. (*Brownwood Banner*)

October 26, 1883 – Greenleaf Fisk gave 2 1/2 acres to the Pecan Valley I00F Lodge No. 236 in the Greenleaf Cemetery for burial of members of that order and their families.

November 15, 1883 – There were several stage lines in operation to and from Brown County, according to the *Austin Weekly Statesman*.

December 3, 1883 – Greenleaf Fisk gave 2 ½ acres to the Brownwood Masonic Lodge No. 141 AF and AM for burial space for Masons, their families and friends.

Brownwood and Cisco Line

The Brownwood and Cisco Line ran daily (except Sunday) between Cisco, on the Texas and Pacific railroad and Brownwood. It carried the mail and express matter, and easy riding coaches, and frequent changes of horses. Left Brownwood at 6 a.m., and Cisco at 6 a.m., connecting with the east and west bound passenger trains. Chanler, Harryman & Hall are the proprietors.

Brownwood and Comanche Line

Connected with daily stage from DeLeon, on the Houston and Texas Central railroad, at Comanche, sixteen miles from the railroad. Travelers coming to Brownwood on this line could stop over night at Comanche and start for Brownwood the following morning. Commodious hacks are run and quick time is made. W. B. Carlock is the proprietor and manager.

Brownwood and Coleman Line

It was a tri-weekly stage line and left Brownwood via Thrifty and Camp Colorado on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m. returning alternate days, through fair, \$2.50. Comfortable hacks, fast time and a jolly good driver are descriptive of this route. Owner and manager was John Hunter.

December 3, 1883 – Greenleaf Fisk gave a half acre to the Brownwood Masonic Lodge No. 141 AF and AM for burial of its members in Greenleaf Cemetery. There have been four additions since then and the cemetery holds over 18,000 burials.

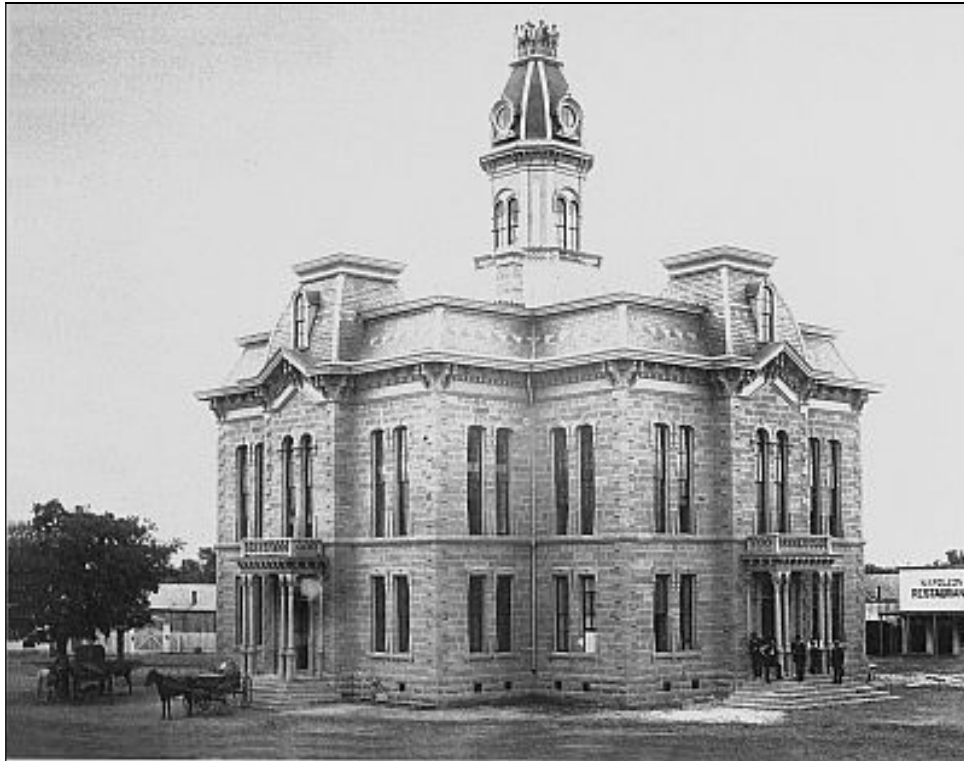
February 27, 1884 – The city jail, known as the "Chicken Cop" burned.

November, 1884 – The *Brownwood Bulletin*, founded by J. Minor Shaffer began publishing a weekly.

1884 – Brownwood had ten saloons, most were located around the courthouse square.

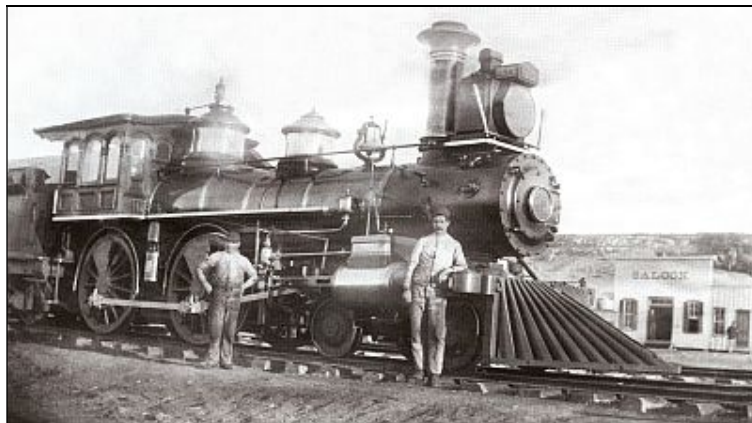
1884 – (*Brownwood Bulletin*) The Brownwood school district was formed.

1885 - The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway completed the line from Brownwood to Lampasas in 1885, missing the town of Zephyr by about a mile. J. M. Wilson moved his small store and the post office to the present site, and the next year Zephyr became a station on the railroad.



1885 Brown County Courthouse

February 15, 1885 – A new Courthouse was completed. It was a two story structure made of native sandstone with a clock tower. No clock was ever installed. This Courthouse was constructed much like the still standing old jail.

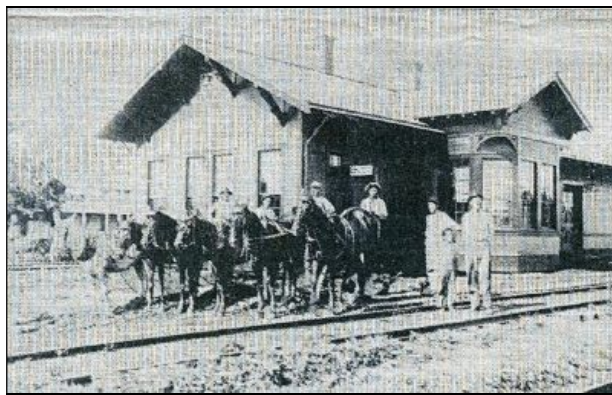


1887 - Local Train in Brown County Mud Creek Area

December 31, 1885 – Passenger service to Brownwood came with the first train into Brownwood on December 31, 1885 by the Gulf Colorado & Santa Fe Railway. The first passenger was Dr. James Johnson. First locomotive that pulled into Brownwood was engine 37.

1885 – (*Brownwood Bulletin*) Frank Swindon planted 400 acres of pecan trees along the banks of the Pecan Bayou.

1886 - Brownwood attorney William Harding Mayes purchased the weeklies *Brownwood Bulletin* in the 1886 and *Brownwood Banner* in the 1887, consolidating them into the *Brownwood Banner-Bulletin*. He and his brother H.F. Mayes started the daily *Brownwood Bulletin* on October 15, 1900. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.)



Gulf and Colorado and Santa Fe Depot at Bangs

1886 – A depot was built in Bangs, Texas, with the coming of the Gulf and Colorado and Santa Fe Railway Company.

1886 - Texas Rangers killed two fence cutters in the ongoing battle between farmers and ranchers over fencing open range.

1886 –The first Brownwood city water system was built while Brooke Smith was Mayor. The City of Brownwood built the Old Dam, located on the Jack Smith place, about 3 miles north of the city, and built the water mains, and put in the pump station. John Kennedy managed the station, which was connected to Wash Hall's livery stable, by the only telephone line in the entire county. When there was a fire in town, they would call the pump station by phone to increase the water pressure for the hoses.

January 11, 1886 - The Santa Fe Railroad commenced running regular trains to Brownwood on a Sunday. There would be but one passenger train each way daily. Two freight trains would run daily each way and carry passengers. The passenger train left Brownwood at 6:30 a.m. and arrived at Temple at 11:15 p.m. The passenger train from Brownwood connected with the main line train for Galveston at Temple.

January 26, 1886 - The first mail pouch over the new railroad from Lampasas to Brownwood arrived that night.

April 1, 1886 - The line from Brownwood to Coleman Junction, Coleman and Ballinger placed in operation by the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railway.

May 24, 1886 – Mr. James W. Atchison officially became Postmaster at Bangs, Texas. Prior to the establishing of the post office, the settlers in the Bangs area had to ride horseback over to Brownwood, Texas and get their mail.

October 3, 1896 - The post office in Holder was opened with Willis C. Strickland as postmaster. The post office has since been discontinued. (*The Promised Land*)

December 9, 1886 – (*Brownwood Bulletin*) Brownwood Volunteer Fire Department organized. First water mains were installed in Brownwood and water was from the Pecan Bayou was transported to residents' homes. A 100-foot stand-pipe was built near East Broadway and Brown Streets.

1887 – Seven hundred square miles of Brown County land was transferred to create Mills County.

1888 – The Christian Church was organized in Brownwood. (*The Promised Land*)

1888 – The first picture show was outdoors on the back of the Northeast side of the building at 101 Fisk as you entered the lobby of the Maxwell House Hotel. There were no seats, you simply stood in the courtyard and watched the show. It was a magic lantern show done with slides.

1889 – The Catholic Church was organized in Brownwood. (*The Promised Land*)

October 1-5, 1889 – The first annual Pecan Valley Fair was held by Pecan Valley Fair Association, Henry Ford, President, W. D. Crothers Secretary, Brooke Smith, Treasurer.



Daniel Baker College

April 5, 1889 – Daniel Baker College was opened for the fall semester. The first class of Daniel Baker graduates, consisting of eight students, graduated in May 1895.

1890 - The population of Brown County was 11,421. A 35.7% increase over 1880. (U.S. Census)

September 20, 1890 – Howard Payne College was opened for the fall semester. The same day as the cornerstone was laid for the main building. There were 100 students registered on the first day.

1891 – First depot built in Blanket, Texas, for the Fort Worth & Rio Grande Railway Company.

1891 – First street lights were installed in downtown Brownwood.

July 18, 1891 - The Fort Worth & Rio Grande Railway opened to Brownwood. First passenger train left Fort Worth at 3 p.m. and arrived in Brownwood at 9:30 p.m. Railway had contracted for 100 carloads of cattle and would begin to move the cars during the coming week.



Frisco Depot located on the West Side of Brownwood

August, 1891 – The first house was built in Blanket, Texas

1892 – The first school building in May was constructed near the present site of the May High School. The school had two-rooms.

1892 – The first school building in Bangs was a 2-room frame structure on the south side of the railroad tracks. Miss Clemie King was the first teacher; enrollment totaled 35 pupils.

April 2, 1892 – The first issue of *The Blanket Herald* was published. Mr. Baldwin was the publisher.

November 23, 1892 - The first Santa Fe Depot in Brownwood burns. A depot building was shipped to Brownwood from Pairs, Texas. When the new depot was built in 1910 this building became the freight office.

1893 – Guy Skinner edited and published *The Blanket Signal* in a one-room building in town.

May 31, 1894 – "Brownwood is a fine town, located in a fine farming region (when seasons are favorable) and shows thrift and enterprise. They have a good system of waterworks, electric lights, oil mill, compress, flouring mill and other enterprises that one expects to find in the largest town west of Fort Worth. Substantial stone and brick business houses abound, while they have two large colleges, four newspapers, six churches, a large public school building and many find residences." (*Granbury News*)

May 31, 1894 – "Brownwood is a much nicer town now than three years ago. The hell holes have all been stopped up, and instead of brilliant red noses there are electric lights. The knights of the green cloth have emigrated and in their stead there are more preachers and school teachers and newspapers." (*The Coleman Voice*)

December 12, 1884 – Zephyr Masonic Lodge No. 591 received its signed charter. J. M. Wilson was Worshipful Master, A. G. Bradbury, Senior Warden. (*Zephyr Yesterday and Today*)

1895 – Mr. Key, a printer, published the first "*May Messenger*."

1895 – The sale of liquor and open saloons were voted out of Brownwood.

January 17, 1895 – "Brownwood's electric light plant will be moved to Cleburne. Dublin's arc lights have also been dispensed with. Both towns bit off a good deal more than they could worry down." (*Comanche Chief*)

January 24, 1895 – The Brownwood Cotton Oil Company makes its own electricity and lights up the entire plant, offices, grounds, and seed houses from its own dynamo. Because of having its own electricity, the plant ran night and day and had a double crew of hands. They expected to work ten thousand tons of seeds that season, and producing three hundred and eighty thousand gallons of oil, and the meal and hulls from the mill to fatten six thousand hives.

January 31, 1895 – Brownwood may soon be lighted again with electricity. Parties have been prospecting with a possible view to putting in a plant.

March, 1895 – The first ice plant was opened in Brownwood by A. H. Hennesdort. It was located on East Lee Street a little more than a block of Fisk Avenue. It was from this site that the first electrical lines were provided to businesses. A few businesses had electric lights installed. The power was furnished by the ice plant.

1893 – The *Blanket Herald* was published by George Kornegay in Blanket as their first newspaper.

1896 – Dulin, TX. It is located just off U.S. Highway 377 some two miles southeast of Brookesmith in Brown County. The farming and ranching community was named for Thomas S. Dulin, a teacher who served in the Civil War in Gager's Mounted Battalion. The first Dulin postmaster was Joseph J. Boyd, who was appointed in 1896. The Dulin post office was discontinued in 1903.

1896 – Rufus F. Hardin, an experienced teacher, came to Brownwood and became principal and teacher in the "Cordell School" located on the corner of Cordell and Hendericks streets and Beaver and Cordell streets. The grade level of the school was six and later expanded to the eighth.

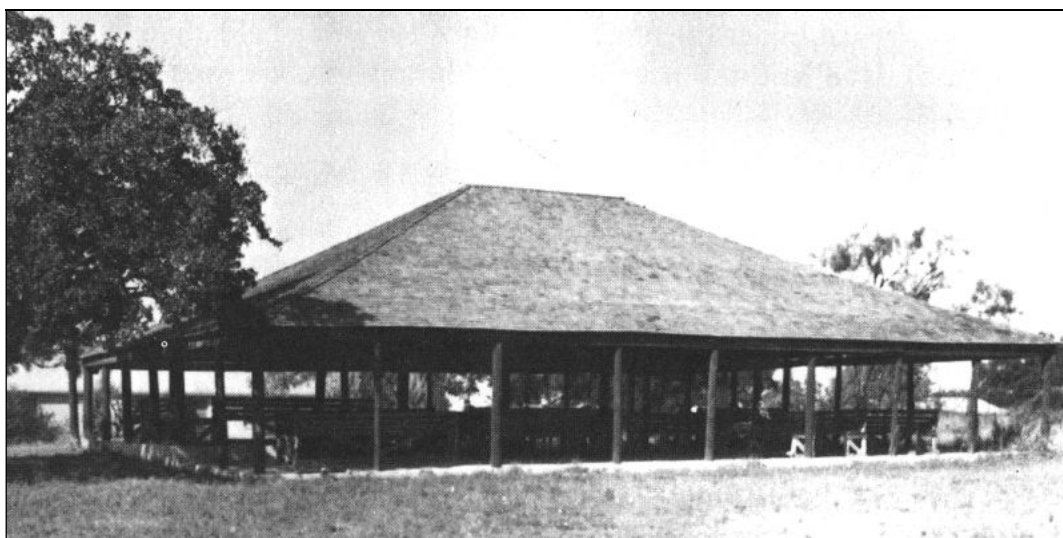
August, 1896 – (*Something About Brown*) The first public notice of the use of telephones in Brownwood came in August, 1896, when a local paper announced that Walter J. Lee, who operated an ice factory and provided electric current for a few homes in the vicinity of the Santa Fe Railroad, had install six telephones in the city. (*Brownwood Bulletin*) A switchboard was located over the First National Bank. He later sold it to C. H. Woodward and a larger switchboard went in at the Reeves Baugh Building at the corner of Fisk and Baker.



1897 – The first school in Bangs was open sometime in the middle 1890's.

June, 1898 - Sanborn-Perris Map Company showed that Brownwood Cotton Oil Company and Western Compress Company had electric lights, provided by onsite electric generators. They also showed an "Old Elect. Light Plant that had all of it machinery removed.

July 1, 1898 – Brownwood post office was advanced to second class. (*The Promised Land*)



Zephyr Gospel Tabernacle

August 26, 1898 – A deed was made "to the town of Zephyr" to be used as a place on which to erect a tabernacle to be used by said Zephyr Community for public gatherings provided it shall never be used as a dance hall and provided no intoxicating liquors shall be allowed to be sold on said land by said trustees or their successors. The site of the tabernacle has remained a part of the town of Zephyr since 1898. the cyclone that devastated the town on May 29, 1909, blew the tabernacle away. It was rebuilt on June of 1909 on the identical site. A Texas Historical Marker was added in 1976. (*Book Eight, In The Life and Lives of Brown County People*)

1899 – Dr. Mollie Armstrong opened her optometrist office in Brownwood. She was the first woman Optometrist in the United States. She served as president of the Texas Optometric Association and was given a life membership in the American Optometric Association. (*The Nice and Nasty in Brown County*)

1890 – Rural mail carriers still used horse drawn buggies to deliver the mail.



Rural Mail Carrier

1900 – Winchell, TX, is located twenty-one miles southwest of Brownwood on U.S. Highway 377 near the McCulloch county line in southwestern Brown County. First named either Broadtown for E. J. Broad who built a store there or Brown Town for a man who built the store, the town was founded about 1900. The name was changed to Winchell in 1903 probably in honor of B. L. Winchell, president of the Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railway, which had built through the town on its way to Brady. In 1924 or 1925 the post office and all the other businesses on the block burned and were never rebuilt; however, postal service was continued until 1958.

1900 - The population of Brown County was 16,019. An increase of 40.3% over 1890. (U.S. Census) Brownwood's population reached 4,000 people.

1900 – Brown County School District was organized with 46 school districts.

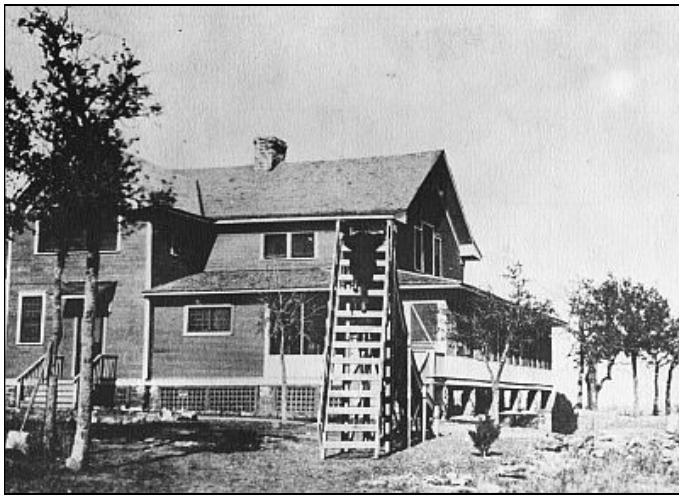
1900 – The first literary club in Brownwood was established when a group of young women organized The Twentieth Century Club. The young members were newly married women or those returning home from college or "finishing schools." (*The Nice and Nasty in Brown County*)

May 7, 1900 – The post office in Grosvenor was opened with Efram W. McClain as postmaster.
(The Promise Land)



1900 Flood in Brownwood – West Broadway Street (Now Fisk)

September 24, 1900 – Flood in Brownwood. The Pecan Bayou had overflowed and had backed up into the business part of the city and had done considerable damage. Severe flooding that year covered parts of the town with up to ten feet of water. Mr. L. B. COMER, general freight and passenger agent of the Rio Grande, said that several hundred feet of the company's track this side of Brownwood was under water and washed away, but that all of the bridges of the company were intact. He said the overflow was regarded as the heaviest since 1873 and that the water was receding very slowly.



Brownwood Lake Club – Club Lake

October 24, 1902 - The Brownwood Lake Club, chartered on October 24, 1902, constructed a two-story frame club house in 1910 next to the Brownwood Club Lake, which is now called Brownwood County Club Lake. It consisted of a large dining room, kitchen and a large assembly room. The upstairs of the club house provided dormitory-style sleeping areas for men, women and children. As their membership grew over the years, the clubhouse was replaced with another larger clubhouse. The Brownwood Lake Club was the precursor of the current Brownwood Country Club.

1902 - Brooksmith, TX, located between Clear Creek and Spring Branch in southwestern Brown County, was named by David Smith in 1902, in honor of Brownwood banker Brooke Smith. A post office was established at Brooksmith in 1903. The community's early settlers included David Smith and Brooke and Aaron Lee. The town had three cotton gins and several other businesses until cotton farming declined in the 1950s.

1903 – William Nelson Adams bought a 1903 Cadillac Touring car, one of the first automobiles in Brown County. He was elected sheriff of Brown County on November 7, 1882, and served until November 6, 1888. He served as a Texas State Senator from January 1909 until August 1912.



Coggin Academy

1903 – Coggin Academy opens its doors. The Academy was known as the old Coggin High School.

1903 – (*Brownwood Bulletin*) The citizens of Brownwood voted to make the sale of alcoholic beverages legal and refused to change their position for 50 years.

January 30, 1903 - The post office in Brooksmith was established with William H. Carry as postmaster. (*The Promise Land*)

March 11, 1903 - Frisco Railway completes a 50-mile extension from Brownwood to Brady.

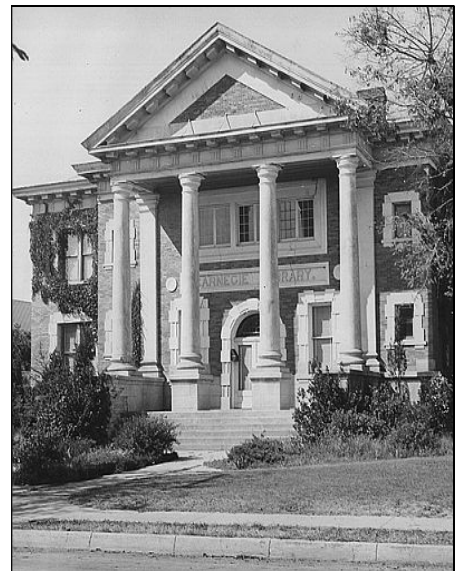
April 9, 1903 – The post office in Winchell was opened with Charles Wilson as postmaster. (*The Promise Land*)



1903 Brown County Jail

June 29, 1903 – Brown County jail was completed, a three-story, stone masonry structure built over a partial basement, now housing the Brown County Museum of History. It took about 18 months to build this building, which was started in January of 1902 and completed on June 29, 1903. It exemplifies the principles which governed jail design in America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was designed and constructed by two of the leading jail companies in the South: Youngblood Brothers of Troy, Alabama, and Martin Moodie & Co. of Comanche, Texas. From 1903 to 1981 - 78 years - it was the Brown County Jail.

1904 – The Brownwood Carnegie Library was one of 2,509 funded by Andrew Carnegie in the U.S. and other English-speaking countries. Brownwood’s pillared, two-story library building was financed by Carnegie at a cost of \$15,000. In turn, the city government agreed to provide an annual budget for materials (books, etc) and maintenance. For 61 years, this Carnegie building served the community—providing materials of both educational and recreational value; as a club and activity center; as a stage for live entertainment.



Carnegie Library

1904 – (Brownwood Bulletin) West Texas Telephone Company was organized and an exchange in Brownwood and expanded in 1910 to a new building at Anderson and Brown Streets.

April 7, 1904 – The first edition of Zephyr's first known newspaper, the *Zephyr Mirror* rolled off the press. It was published weekly on Thursdays by editors and publishers, "Buck and Horn." The newspaper was discontinued sometime in early 1912.

May, 1904 – Bert McLaughlin and Egbert Key purchased and installed material for a telephone system in Blanket.

1905 - Bangs Cemetery established. There are 3,236 interments.

1905 – Hall Brothers opened the Hall Brothers Rock Crusher in the summer of 1905, utilizing the hard limestone that is known as the Adams Branch Limestone and which lies in a ledge about twenty feet thick at the top of hills southwest of Brownwood. (*Something About Brown*)

1905 – Brownwood Bulletin occupies its new building on the corner of East Lee Street and Brown Street.

August 31, 1905 – Zephyr had been lighted with electricity by a generator by the railroad track that ran all night. (*Zephyr Yesterday and Today*)



Coggin Park

1906 – Samuel R. Coggin and wife gave ten acres of land to the City of Brownwood for a city park. The park bears the name "Coggin Park"

The park is still in use today. Many additional improvements have been made to the park over the years and the park celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2006. Now has 15.15 acres on Austin Avenue.

1906 - An eight room, two-story building was constructed on Center Avenue, which cost \$3,000, housed the secondary grades, and it was located where the present Winebrennar Science Building now stands on Howard Payne University campus.

June 26, 1907 – An ad in the *Brownwood Bulletin* by El Green said, "For quick messenger, delivery and transfer service call the Automobile at the stand in front of the Favorite on Baker Street. Makes hurry-up trips, quick deliveries and takes parties out for pleasure riding. New five passenger machine awaits your pleasure." The car was a Reo.

July 6, 1907 – Elgie Green and Lee Hall who are agents for the Reo Automobile here today sold T. C. Yantis a five passenger Rio Touring car. (From the *Brownwood Bulletin*)

July 25, 1907 – Dam No.2 was completed on the Pecan Bayou providing Brownwood with an ample supply of water. (Note: The dam is the one you see just north of Humphrey Pete’s on Commerce Street where the street crosses Pecan Bayou.) The pump station was built where Riverside Park is now. The park was created right after the dam was completed. (*Brownwood Daily Bulletin*)

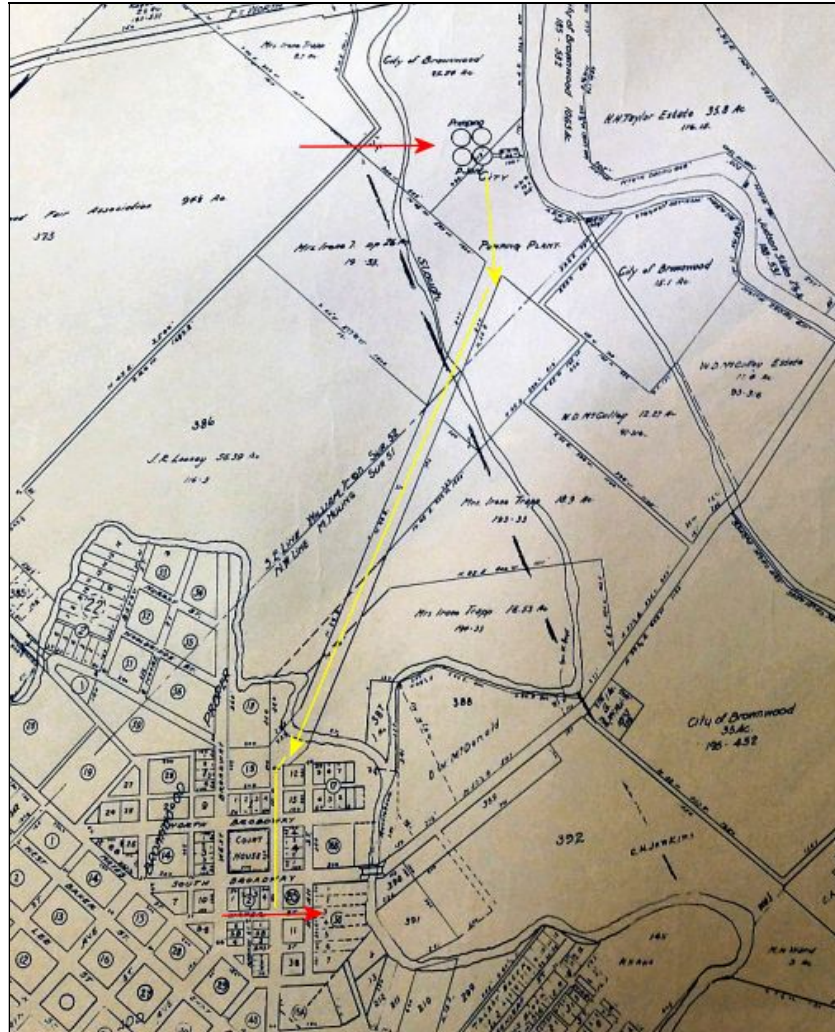


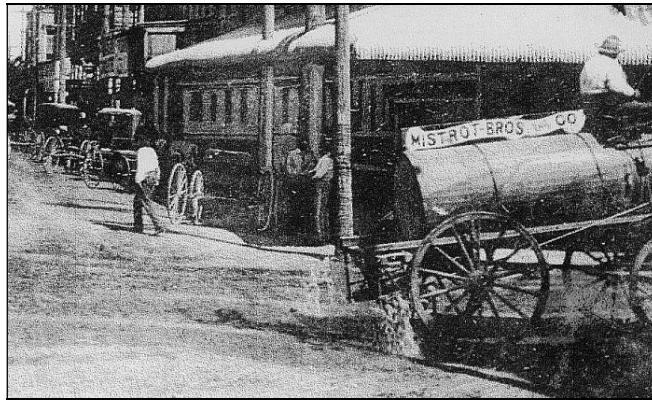
Diagram showing the pump station and the pipeline to Brownwood for the water system.

August 16, 1907 – Riverside Park was dedicated. It was a great event with people from miles around present for the big Confederate Veterans Regimental Reunion for the entire district was held in the park. Thousands were present. (*Brownwood Daily Bulletin*)

1908 – A bond election furnished funds for paving the Brownwood business district. Each property owner contributed to a fund for curbs and gutters, and the city bore the expense of the paving. Hall brothers furnished the crushed stone to the city, and since power machinery had not come into use, the huge roller for smoothing out the crushed stone used horse power, as many as twelve horses or mules being used to pull the roller.

June 11, 1908 – The Brownwood Brick and Tile Company began making common brick and tile from shale southwest of Brownwood. The brick is still found in many buildings in Brownwood. (*Something About Brown*)

December 10, 1908 – Brownwood Federation of Women’s Clubs was organized. Mrs. Jon. W. Goodwin was elected president. Twentieth Century Club, Shakespeare, Wednesday Harmony and the Cemetery Association were founding members. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)



Water Wagon on Right – Baker Street

December 31, 1908 –There were only five car owners in the city of Brownwood. Prior to 1908, the streets of Brownwood were all but impassable during periods of rain, while in dry seasons they became dusty. So great was the dust that the merchants contributed to the cost of operating a street sprinkler that was a water wagon equipped with a sprinkler device at the rear and was drawn by a team of horses.

1909 – The first newspaper in Bangs was the *Bangs Advocate*. Then it was later called the *Bangs Enterprise* which burned in 1923.

March 19, 1909 - Frisco Round House in Brownwood was destroyed by fire. At 8:30 p.m. fire, originating in the waste room at the Frisco round house, destroyed the round house building along with an engine and the supplies on hand. A workman brought a torch into the room and it was overturned in the box of "waste." Several engines and coal cars were removed from the building but one engine could not be brought out.

May 30, 1909 – An F4 tornado struck Zephyr, killing 34 people and injuring 70. Most of the deaths occurred in residential areas on the southern and eastern sides of the community. Rescue train arrived by 3:30 a.m. bringing rescue crew and 7 doctors.



Zephyr – 1909 F4 Tornado

December 18, 1909 – The city of Bangs was incorporated.

1910 - The population of Brown County was 22,935. An increase of 43.2% over 1900. (U.S. Census)

1910 – The first May band was organized in 1910 by Charlie Hays and remained active for three years under the direction of E. O. Allen.

1910 – The first high-rise building in Brownwood was the First National Bank located on the corner of Center Avenue and Baker Street. It has the first elevator in town and the building is still being used.

1910 – Blanket had 5 stores, drug store, bank, barber shop, 2 hotels and 5 gins.



Star Wagon Yard 1910

1910 – This 1910 photograph shows the 400 block of South Broadway in Brownwood, and a rock building at the left which is still standing. The building has been used as a café though it was a grocery and hotel here and a stage coach stop. The man in the buggy at left is Rob Reagan, the man third from the left is Joe Hicks, and the man in the buggy at the far right is Bowden Sandy Grundy. You can see the Star Wagon Yard in the back. In the early days this was one the major places to store your wagon when you came to town.

January 10, 1910 –The Mary Garland Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was issued Carter No. 890 by the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. The organizing regent was Mrs. R. B. Rogers of Brownwood, Texas. The name Mary Garland was chosen to honor an ancestress of Mrs. Rogers. Mary Garland Wood was the daughter and wife of Revolutionary soldiers. They were James Garland Sr., her father, and James Wood, her husband, both from Albermarle Co. Virginia. Mary Garland Wood was a woman of strong character and courage, the mother of twelve children and a member of the Presbyterian Church.

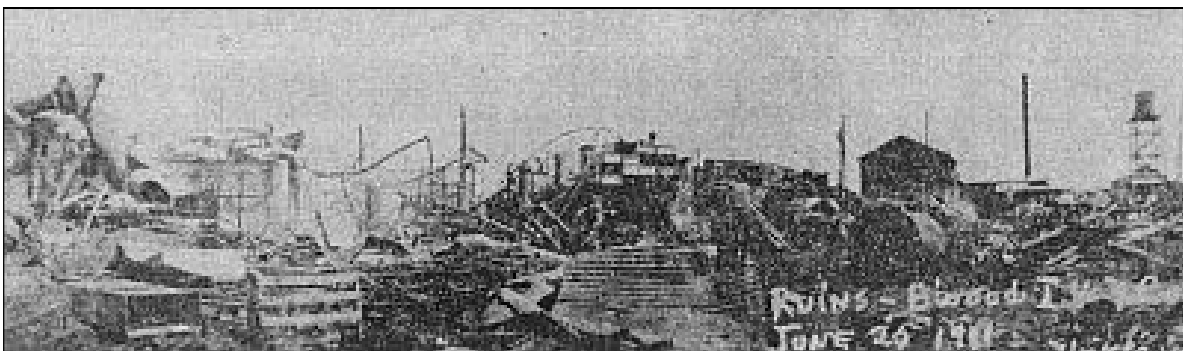


Santa Fe Depot

August 6, 1910 - New Santa Fe Depot in Brownwood was opened to the public. Over two thousand people visited the Santa Fe new Passenger station the night before. The Floral Club orchestra furnished music for the dances at the reception that was provided by Santa Fe employees. The structure represents an outstanding example of the Prairie style in Texas.

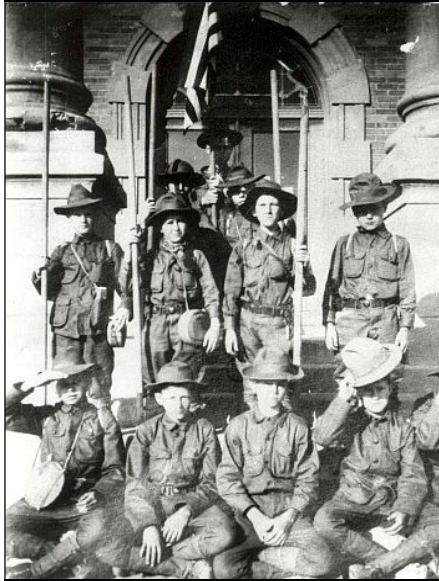


1911 – There was a reunion of The United Confederate Veterans Brownwood Camp No. 1750.



Brownwood Ice and Fuel Company

June 25, 1911 – The Brownwood Ice and Fuel Company was burned to the ground.



Boy Scouts 1912

December 9, 1911 – First Boy Scout troop was organized in Brownwood. This troop was able to stay active for eight years. "A meeting was held at the home of Robert Walker on Fisk Avenue on yesterday afternoon for the purpose of organizing a Boy Scout club among the younger boys of the city. The club is formed under the direction of Scout Master Tommie Thompson. (*The Daily Bulletin*)

1912 – The first cars appeared in Zephyr. Walter L. Johnson was sporting a Dodge Touring car; George A. Matson, a Saxon; Raphalel Reasoner, a Chambers.

May 7, 1912 – The town of Blanket was incorporated when Judge A. M. Brumfeld signed the document.

January 1, 1912 - The first passenger train, on the new North & South line of the Frisco, between Brownwood and May was a six coach train carrying some 500 Brownwood boosters to May.



Walker-Smith Company in 1913



Walker-Smith First Truck - 1913

February 3, 1913 – Walker-Smith Company bought its first truck for Brownwood at a cost of \$1,990.00. It was a Wichita with chain-drive, red in color. Jimmy Preston was the driver. This truck was put in Brownwood city trade. It caused many of the old buggy horses in the city to "shy" and also frightened some of the citizens.

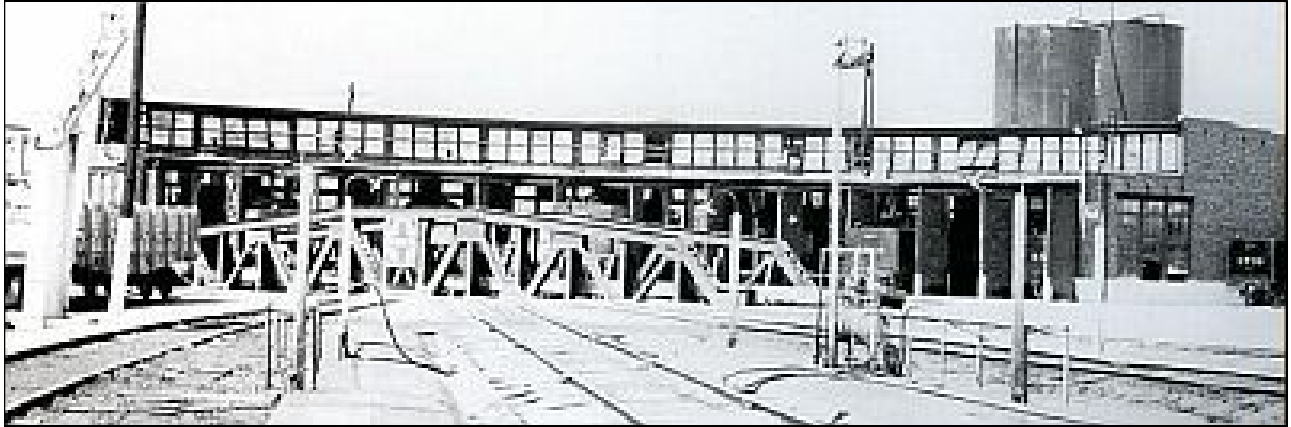
October 4, 1913 - Post Office Department at Washington, Route No. 650.003 areoplane mail service between Brownwood and Comanche, Texas has been established between their post offices on October 10, 11, 12, 1913, one trip each way each day. Lester Miller of Dallas was the aviator. He made flights each day during the Free Fall Fair.

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December 18, 1913 - The city of Brownwood signed a contract with the Texas & Power & Light Company to install 100 candle power lights on the street corners in downtown Brownwood.

December 24, 1913 – "That the people of the city (of Brownwood) are using the recently opened Vine Street subway (underpass) freely is attested by the statement of Warren Lockett, Santa Fe engineer, that between the hours of 3:00 and 3:30 yesterday afternoon he counted 103 vehicles as they passed through the subway. These vehicles included bicycles, motorcycles, buggies, wagons and other varieties and each carried the quota of the population of the "Cleanest Town in Texas," the number ranging from one to ten persons per vehicle." (*The Daily Bulletin*)

December 31, 1913 – Ninety-three automobiles received licenses at the office of the Brown County clerk's office.



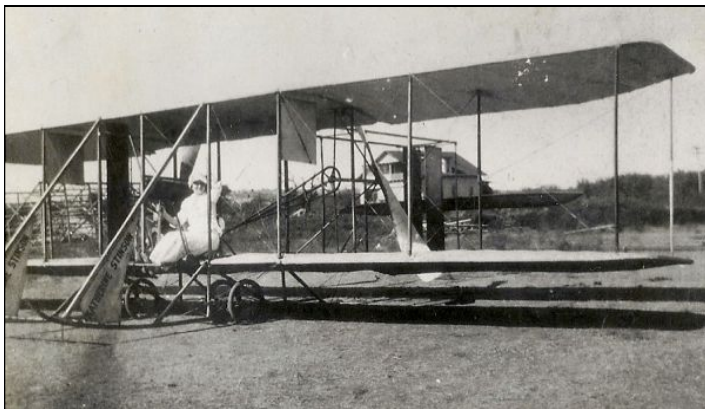
Roundhouse in Brownwood

January 20, 1914 - Santa Fe Roundhouse and shop are hurried to completion. The roundhouse would accommodate twelve engines of the largest size. The roundhouse covered an acre of ground. The foundation for the eighty-five-foot turntable was on the ground. Other buildings yet to be erected were the offices, sand tower, supply and acre shed covering three tracks.

March 7, 1914 – Lyric Theater opens. In March it was opened as "The New Theater," later in July it became "The Lyric." The theater was built using private capital. Harold Robb took over as active manager of the theater and changed the name to "Lyric" which had been attached to some very successful show houses in the past. His first movie was "Between Tiger and Savage."



Lyric Theater



Miss Katherine Stinson

October 7, 1914 - Miss Katherine Stinson, the youngest aviator in the world, who passed all the International Tests, made daily flights at the Brownwood Free Fall Fair. She also carried passengers up into the clouds charging \$25.00 per passenger.

December 15, 1914 – The Harvey House at the Santa Fe Depot in Brownwood opened for business. The dining rooms were located on the first floor of the addition, and the hotel rooms for overnight railroad employees, and dorms for the Harvey House staff, were located on the second floor. The dining rooms consisted of a coffee shop, a restaurant, kitchen, a tea room and a large kitchen facility. The tea room had Prairie-style stenciling on the walls and ceiling.



Harvey House

1914 – Post Office built on Center Avenue. It is built of buff wire-cut brick, and trimmed with white stone and granite. Its interior will be of the best grade, and the arrangement of lobby, room, etc. is very convenient. The Bailey-Marsh Construction Company has the job. Brownwood Post Office is located at 600 Center Avenue in Brownwood. Regular mail service began at the new building on the morning of August 1, 1914. A major renovation was done in 1965 in which the post office was gutted and reconstructed. Floor space was added on both the Adams Street side and on the Depot Street side. The construction was not completed until January 1966.

April 8, 1916 –The Central Fire Station was burned to the ground on Pecan Street. Two young men faced trial on January 2, 1917, charged with arson in the fire. John Dean confessed and incriminated the other defendant Will Pierce. A crowd of about a thousand people gathered in the street near the fire station and watched the flames lick up the wooden building.

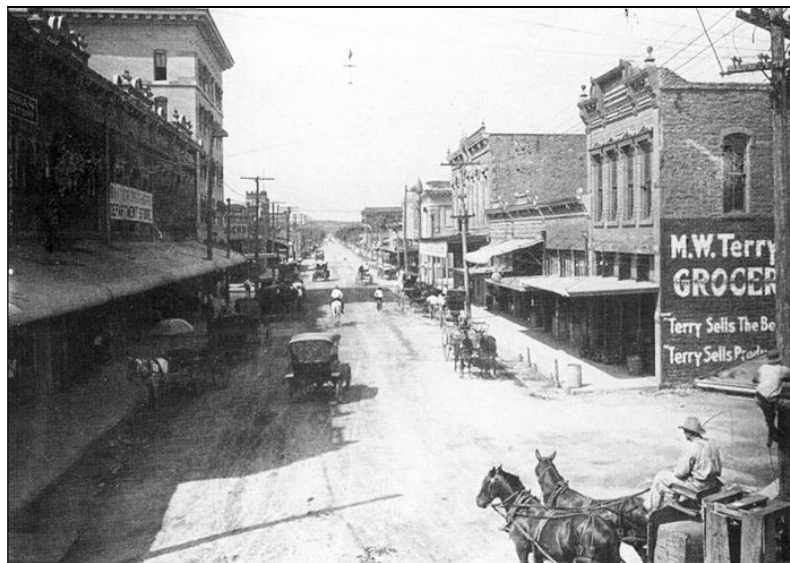


Post Office

August 11, 1916 – "The city street department spread a thick layer of road oil on Fisk and Center Avenues and Fagg Street yesterday, and as a result Brownwood's clothes cleaning will bill be will greatly increased for the month. Cars, bicycles and horses suffered alike; nothing could withstand the skidding and tendencies of the oil. The streets were not roped off and the accidents were more numerous and amusing than ever before. One boy who allowed his bicycle to leave him remained sitting in a puddle of oil for about two minutes before he could muster courage to try to rise. Several Fords attracted attention by skidding around and keeping their course uninterrupted." (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

November 23, 1916 – "Automobile number 1000 has been issued in Brown County. The mark was issued this afternoon at 3 o'clock by County Clerk Homer Byrd to Howard Sullivan of the Sullivan Machine Company. Four hundred and thirty-nine autos bought during the year. The average cost per car was estimated by the dealers to be \$800." (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

1917 – Louise McKee managed to get a large crowd of citizens to meet at a large open tabernacle on Fisk Street. The Brown County Red Cross was organized at this time and Mrs. McKee was elected Chairman. The Brown County Charter came on March 15, 1917, signed by Woodrow Wilson. A canteen was set up in the Santa Fe station with volunteers on call both day and night. All trains were met; and food, soft drinks and first aid was supplied. (Carol Jordan)



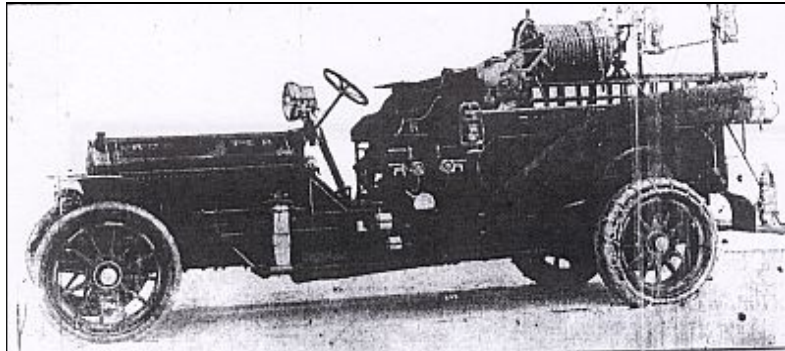
1917 Center Street

January 3, 1917 – The speed limit in Brownwood is eight miles an hour. City Marshall John Champion said that his deputies would make war on the speeders as well as open mufflers.

May 2, 1917 - The city council accepted a bid by Ed G. Hall for a used 1913 Cadillac automobile chassis to be rebuilt by him, and to be equipped with the fire fighting apparatus now carried by the horse drawn wagon. The children did not like it as they couldn't chase after the faster moving vehicle.

May 3, 1917 – Mrs. J. H. McKee was unanimously elected chairman of the newly organized Brownwood Red Cross Chapter. By May 5, 1917 the Brownwood Chapter of American Red Cross has 227 members. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

May 1, 1917 – The Brownwood Chapter of the American Red Cross was organized with approximately one hundred and forty members. Mrs. J. H. McKee was elected chairman.



1917 LaFrance Fire Truck

May 16, 1917 - The city purchased for \$9,000 a LaFrance engine and a second hand Cadillac chemical truck. The truck was to be paid for in five equal payments. The truck was to be delivered to Brownwood within ninety days.



Rufus F. Hardin High School – Photo by Jason Grant

September, 1917 – The "Brownwood Colored High School" is opened with three classrooms and an auditorium. Within a year the school district added a stage in the front of the auditorium and lights were added throughout the building. The BISD had decided to use the stone from the burned Coggin School to build this high school.



Brownwood City Hall and Fire Station

Fall, 1917 –The new Brownwood City Hall and Fire Station was opened on East Lee and Fisk Street and the Volunteer Fire Department moved into part of the ground floor with the families of the Firemen living on the second floor.



Lion Stadium

1918 – The Brownwood Independent School District completed construction of a new high school building on Austin Avenue at a cost of \$75,000. Grades eight through eleven were housed here. This was before the twelve grade system was instituted in Texas. The building is located on the corner of Avenue B and Rogan Street. Lion Stadium was build behind the Rogan Street building in 1936 as a Public Works Project.



Brown County Courthouse

September 9, 1918 – The County Courthouse built in 1885 underwent major repairs and is the current courthouse we have today. It has undergone many repairs since 1918. The old courthouse disappeared, none of its stone structure appearing in the current courthouse.

December 19, 1918 – Music teachers of Brownwood organized an association to promote musical interest in the city called “The Music Teachers’ Association of Brownwood”. Mrs. L. J. Allison was elected as their first president.

1919 - The Brownwood Lions Club was chartered.

October 1919 – The Isham A. Smith Post American Legion No. 196 of Brownwood was organized, following much active work by Brownwood World War I veterans. Roy Sharp was the first Post Commander and Eldridge C. Moore the Post Adjutant. It was named after Isham A. Smith of Zephyr who was the first Brown County soldier to fall and the post was named in honor of this youth, who had just passed his eighteenth birthday when he inhaled the fatal German gas on Flanders fields, passed away June 14, 1916. (*Book Eight, In The Life and Lives of Brown County People*)

1920 - The population of Brown County was 21,682. A decrease of 5.5% over 1910. (U.S. Census)

March 3, 1920 - Lieutenants R. W. Lutz and F. E. Monor of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, flew a new Curtis plane over Brownwood, using the landing field west of the end of Austin Avenue as their base.



Graham Hotel

March 19, 1920 – The temporary organization of the Brownwood Rotary Club was made during a luncheon held at the Graham Hotel with eighteen members. Chester Harrison was selected to serve as temporary chairman. An application for an official charter for the club was made on April 1, 1920. On May 1, 1920, Rotary began its first year's work under the guidance of District Governor Robert E. Vinson and President Chester Harrison.

July 21, 1920 – J. N. Weatherby of Goldthwaite bought the Ford Agency in Brownwood from E. M. Boon. The automobiles were shipped to Brownwood in railroad cars with the bodies and fenders stacked in one end of the boxcar and the chassis were stacked in the other end. The cars were put together on the second floor of the Ford building which had a ramp to move the parts to the second floor and drive the cars down to the first floor.

1921 – Brownwood Rotary Club sponsors a tree planting project which resulted in over 1,000 pecan trees being planted in Brownwood.

January 7, 1921 – Brownwood Council of BSA, a “second class” council was chartered with P. A. Glanville as President and James C. White as Scout Commission. There were four Boy Scout troops active.



Swimming at Hot Wells

April 1, 1921 – **"Hot Water Well was to be developed by Brownwood American Legion."** "Strong flow of water with temperature of 106 degrees, containing sulphur and other minerals to be utilized in modern natatorium plant under the management of the Brownwood Post of the American Legion; in operation when Convention meets again." The new natatorium, now known as Hot Wells Swimming Pool, opened Saturday, May 21, 1921. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

June 10, 1921 - Brownwood, Texas. Eight prisoners in the Brown County Jail started a matrimonial agency through a letter to the Chief of Police at Camden, New Jersey. "In their letter to the Camden officer, these jail birds represented themselves as eight hard working cowboys, living on a lonely ranch, and they wanted to get in correspondence with some nice girls with a view of matrimony. The Camden officer turned the letter over to the Camden Newspaper which published the love pleading epistle under the caption the eight lonely Texas Cowboys were wanting brides in New Jersey." From *Democrat--Voice* June 10, 1921

July 21, 1921 – Brownwood post office was advanced to first class. (*The Promise Land*)



1921 Brownwood Black Band

October 13, 1921 – Forty-eight members have joined the newly organized Black Band of which R. Wright Armstrong is director, and arrangements have been made for six months of instruction. Instruments have been ordered and work will begin at once toward perfecting other details of the organization. Richard Hester has been elected president and business manager. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)



Old Gray Mare Band

November 14, 1921 – The Old Gray Mare Band was organized by R. Wright Armstrong to bring the West Texas Chamber of Commerce Convention to Brownwood. Wearing distinctive red silk shirts, yellow bandanas, patent leather boots and sombreros, the Old Gray Mare Band spread the spirit of Texas across the state and nation.

November 2, 1921 – One man lost his life, four others were more or less seriously injured in a fire at the Harper Hotel on South Broadway was gutted by fire of undetermined origin. The blasé was to the two-story hotel building. W. P. Reavis of Locker, San Saba County, lost his life.

1923 - The Brownwood Independent School District, because of overcrowding in the high school on Austin Avenue, constructed a junior high school building for \$87,000. This building was located on the corner of Avenue B and Rogan St. and called Central School. It was also known later at the Rogan Building.

1923 – Central Texas Hospital was established by Dr. Jewel Daugherty behind the Brown County Courthouse.



April 10, 1923 - The Greenleaf Cemetery Association was incorporated. The Greenleaf Cemetery is a non-profit perpetual care cemetery. Its governing body consists of seven board members, elected by members of the Greenleaf Cemetery Association.

September 1, 1923 – Brownwood Kiwanis Club of has completed permanent organization.

December 21, 1923 – Work started to day on the \$80,000 Soldiers and Sailors' Memorial Hall to be finished in time for the West Texas Chamber of Commerce Convention in May. The auditorium is to be dedicated to soldiers and sailors who went from Brownwood to World War I. The building will be a permanent home for the Isham A. Smith Post of the American Legion, and also for the two military companies of Brownwood, and where the armory will be located.

1924 – The name of East Broadway was changed to North Fisk to match Fisk Street to the South. Fisk Street was named after Greenleaf Fisk, because he donated sixty acres to the town and one hundred acres to the county for a courthouse and civic center. West Broadway Street was changed to North Center Street to match Center Street to the South.

January, 1924 – The Santa Fe Railroad opened a rock crusher near the Hall Brothers Crusher. This plant has a capacity of 10,000 car loads of crushed stone per year. (*Something About Brown*)

May 12, 1924 – Soldiers and Sailor’s Memorial Hall was dedicated. The West Texas Chamber of Commerce was the first group to meet in the new building. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

1925 – First State Bank was established.

1925 – Coggin Memorial Hall, Daniel Baker College, built at a cost of \$65,000.

1925 – Organization of the Texas Pecan Association at Brownwood. Also, saw the permanent location of federal Pecan Insect Investigation Station.

1925 – Installation of the Santa Fe Rock Crusher at a cost of \$250,000.

1925 – Installation of sewer system for Coggin Addition at a cost of not less than \$40,000 and building of city filtration system.

1926 – Bangs completed its first water system; water furnished from hand dug wells throughout the city, piped to storage facilities and a filter plant.



Mims Auditorium

1925 – Mims Auditorium built on Howard Payne campus at a cost of more than \$85,000.

January 1, 1925 – Brown County now has 188 producing oil wells.

1927 - By this time, there were 1, 044 oil wells drilled, and of which 515 were producing wells.

1927 - Carl Adams, a former deputy sheriff, recalled an escape made in 1927 by Dave Rutherford, charged with killing Santa Anna Constable Joe Griffin. Rutherford, who was in a cell next to an outer wall of the jail, sawed his way out one night. He was later recaptured and taken to the state penitentiary at Huntsville to serve out his time.

February 22, 1927 – The Brownwood Art League was organized with Mrs. W. R. Roberts as elected as president with the necessary staff of officers. Later, the club became know as the Art Association.

May 11, 1927 – There was an oil boom in Brown County. Brown County lead the state in drilling permits – leads the state in the number of producing oil wells completed. Average of 34,000 gallons of oil per day was produced.

1928 – The Bangs volunteer fire department was organized with Frank Sullivan as the first Fire Chief.

1928 – (*Brownwood Bulletin*) Southwest States Telephone Company purchased the West Texas Telephone Company and in 1934 moved its general offices to Brownwood.

March 8, 1928 – The formal opening of the Medical Arts Hospital was held.



A. R. Hochhalter Outside Basement Entrance to the Courthouse

March 22, 1928 – Pecan Valley Council, BSA, was chartered by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Jewel D. Daugherty, M. D. served as its first President. They had four active Boy Scout troops. The offices of the Pecan Valley Council were located in 1928 in the old American Legion Hall located in the basement of the Brown County Courthouse. The Comanche Trail Council, following the merger of the two councils, was for many years in the same place

as the rent was free. The office served the purposes of the council until the very early 50's. The space is now used for storage of courthouse records.

August 4, 1928 - Oswald Daughert became the first Boy Scout Eagle Scout in Brownwood. He was a member of Troop 5, sponsored by the Austin Avenue Presbyterian Church.

1929 – The Junior Twentieth Club held its first meeting in the Federated Club rooms on the second floor of the Carnegie Library. Originally, they met in member's home but eventually moved their meeting to the Mabee Center on Howard Payne University campus.

1929 – The Brownwood Garden Club was organized. It was recognized as a member of the Texas Federation of Garden Clubs in 1930. Mrs. H. H. Negus was elected president. The membership was limited to twenty-five. (*Book Eight, In The Life and Lives of Brown County People*)

January 31, 1929 – Brownwood had its first radio station. KGKB 100 watts. Broadcasting from 8:00 pm to 12:00 pm. The studio was at the Fire Arts Building on the Howard Payne Campus. The transmitting room at 2404 Austin Avenue.

April 4, 1929 – The Lyric Theater installs the modern talking picture machine. The first picture to be shown was *The Home Towner*.” C. E. Boyett was the manager of the theater.

June 25, 1929 – The Highway Department let a contract for the construction of the first paved highway from the Comanche County line westward to Brownwood as part of Highway Number 10 and for that portion of Highway Number 7 from Brownwood westward to the Coleman County line. (*Something About Brown*)

July 29, 1929 - A group of University of Texas students, with two brand new airplanes, reached Brownwood for a stay of three days. The landing field used by the party was near the Brownwood Floral Company greenhouses, just south of Austin.

October 29, 1929 – Two patrols of Cub Scouts, BSA, were organized by Boy Scout Troop 8 in the First Baptist Church gymnasium. Forty boys attended the organizational meeting.



Brownwood Hotel

January 1, 1930 – Work on the Brownwood Hotel was started with completion in November 1930. However, before completion the big Depression cause Ross Sterling to default and the American National Insurance Company, who had first lien took over and finished the building. For a number of years, the insurance company operated the hotel.

1930 - The population of Brown County was 26,382. An increase of 21.7% over 1920. (U.S. Census)

1930 – The Brown County Chapter of the America Red Cross was chartered in 1930 as the Pecan Valley Chapter located in Brownwood, Texas.

February 12, 1930 – The Masonic held it first meeting in the new Masonic Temple on East Adams Street.

November 21, 1930 – Formal opening of Hotel Brownwood was held. There were 225 fire proof rooms. The price at the time was \$2.00 and up. Later the building became the Sid Richardson Hall, a dormitory for Howard Payne College and is currently vacant.

January 9, 1931 – The Central Texas Hospital, located at 300-06 Broadway was destroyed by fire. All patients were taken to the Medical Arts Hospital.

1932 – New (wide) paved highway No. 84/183 constructed from Zephyr to Brownwood. (*Zephyr Yesterday and Today*)



Lake Brownwood Dam in 1932

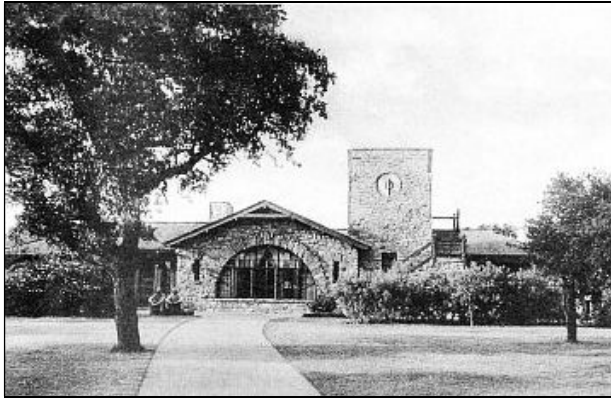
1932 - Lake Brownwood dam was completed in early 1932. Skeptics predicted it would be years before it would fill with water. On July 3, 1932, the dam was nearly completed when there came a big rain, sixteen inches was reported on parts of the watershed and the lake filled practically overnight! The lake waters covered approximately 7,200 acres of land acquired by the water district by purchase or by condemnation between 1926 and 1930.

The cost of the structure was financed by water bonds paid by real property taxes assessed against real property located within the water district which, at that time, was composed of most of the lands with the town of Brownwood and lying now within the confines of the City of Early. Much of the dirt moving was done by teams of mules and scrapers.

February 12, 1932 – The Oil Belt Council, BSA, with headquarters in Eastland, Texas, and the Pecan Valley Council, BSA, with headquarters in Brownwood, merged to become the Comanche Trail Council, BSA, with eight counties. Dr. Jewel D. Daughy, M. D., became the first President of this newly merged council. Their offices were in the basement of the Brown County Courthouse.

February 14, 1932 - Airports have been established at Brownwood and Spearman.

1934 – The "Brownwood Colored High School" changed its name to "R. F. Hardin High School" in honor of professor Hardin who had become ill.



Lake Brownwood State Park

1934-1935 – Lake Brownwood State Park was opened in 1938. Many structures in use today were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) group of two hundred men in the 1934 -1935 from timber and native rock found in the park. It is 537.5 acres acquired by deed from the Brown County Water Improvement District No. 1 in 1934.

1935 – Brownwood Livestock Exhibition first held in Brownwood. The name was changed to the Brown County Youth Fair on December 31, 1957, and from then on was sponsored by the Brown County Fair Association.

1935 - Airport in Brownwood was launched as a 200-acre tract leased by the city from the county. Dr. Edgar Fuller, Dallas scientist and inventor, constructed the beacon field for the airport. WPA funds applied six six-inch calicle base on runways, clearing and levying.

1935 – Heart of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3278 (VFW) is born. First building was at Indian Creek.

August 3, 1935 – The first annual Lake Brownwood Regatta and water carnival was held.

Officers of the 1935 Pioneer Association

October 15, 1935 – The Rotary Club of Brownwood sponsored first Pioneer Reunion for the early settlers of Brown County. Meeting held in old Brownwood auditorium. The club helped organize the Pioneer Association. The reunion was held for the next twenty years.



October 20, 1935 – The Brownwood policemen received radios in their patrol cars.

1936 - Lion Stadium was built behind the Rogan Street School building in 1936 as a Public Works Project. It was later town down when a new school was built on that site.

1936 – Girl Scout Troops in Brownwood operated on a lone basis.

December 31, 1937 – Work began on a canal to bring irrigation water to Brownwood and was completed June 30, 1939. The work was done by the WPA.

1939 - O. M. Smith, deputy sheriff when Jack Hallmark was sheriff during the thirties, said the most famous escape from the county jail came in 1939. Two prisoners called Jailer Pinkney Taylor asking for medicine. When he came to their cell, they slugged Taylor, took his keys, stole a car outside the jail belonging to a Howard Payne College ministerial student, and left town. The men were finally captured several months later.

February 3, 1939 – First Brownwood police officer killed. William Clarence Fuston, a five-year veteran of the police force, was shot by W.T. Haley, a prison escapee.

December 7, 1939 - The Brownwood City Council has authorized the construction of a hangar at the municipal airport. A temporary but substantial building will be erected for the use of Daniel Baker and Howard Payne students taking part in the Civil Aeronautics Authority's student pilot training program.

1940 - The population of Brown County was 25,924. A decrease of 1.7% over 1930. (U.S. Census)

September 11, 1940 - The Army Air Corps Tuesday officially approved the 200 acre Brownwood municipal airport as the headquarters for the air squadron of the Thirty-Sixth Division. The field will be lighted and water, gas and other utilities installed. The runways, now of caliche, will be paved.



Camp Bowie

September 19, 1940 - Camp Bowie Army Training Camp. The War Department announced that a camp should be built at Brownwood. Work began at the camp on September 27, 1940. The Camp was the first major defense project in the state and there was no scarcity of labor when the building work began. At one time more than 15,000 area men were employed on the project. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

December 1, 1940 – The *Bangs Gazette* name was changed to the *Brown County Gazette* with Forest Kyle as Publisher.

December 3, 1940 – At the Army Airport mess halls, tent frames and other faculties were up where the 111th Observation Squadron was being quartered.



Brownwood Army Airport

1941 – Butane and electricity came to Zephyr. (*Zephyr Yesterday and Today*)

June 20, 1941 - The Robert E. KcKee Construction Company is winding up work on the Bakery, laundry and the military hanger at the Army airport.

August 17, 1941 – KBWD radio station went on the air. Wendall Mayes, Sr. was the principal owner. At precisely 12:30 p.m. KBWD-AM radio went on the air.

September 23, 1941 – The Junior Women's Garden Club met to organize a group of young women to operate under the Good-will Committee of the Brownwood Garden Club. During November 1941, the "Garden Culture Club" was selected as the name to replace the Junior Women's Garden Club. On September 1, 1942, the Constitution was adopted and the Garden Culture Club became State and District Federated. (Louise Herdman)

October, 1941 – Jaycees were chartered. The Jaycees consisted of only a handful of young men. In the early years the Jaycees helped with Chamber of Commerce projects such as Golden Gloves boxing matches, boat races and other sporting events. John Arthur Thomason was of the original Jaycees. Up until 1978 the Jaycees were made up of only six or seven members. By 1982, they had fifty members.

December, 1941 – The Red Cross Canteen Corps was organized with classes in nutrition and meals served to thousands of soldiers as they passed through the Santa Fe station in Brownwood.

1942 – The first hospital was built in May, Texas and was called the Chambers Memorial Hospital. It was built on a tract of land that was donated by B. H. Bettis. Miss. Myrtle Brown, a registered nurse, worked as nursing supervisor. The hospital closed in 1958 for lack of doctors.

July 31, 1942 – Edition No 1 of the “Camp Bowie Blade” Camp Bowie, Texas Army post paper, made its appearance July 31. It was named after the Bowie knife, a watchword in pioneer Texas days. Each Bowie knife has a blade, hence the “Camp Bowie Blade.”

August 6, 1942 – Conversion of Camp Bowie to armored training center.

November 12, 1942 – Gasoline rationing began. Date for persons with cars to sign up for their gasoline ration books during World War II.

November 29, 1942 - Two men are seriously injured by a dynamite explosion today at the Brownwood airport. Isidoro Garcia Salas of Winchester suffered a broken leg and James Elam of Calvert had both legs broken. They were employed in road construction.

January 20, 1943 – The grammar school at May, Texas, was destroyed.

February 4, 1943 – The government seized a total of 120,000 acres of land with 98,000 in Brown County and 22,000 in Mills County for Camp Bowie training ground.

July 10, 1943 – Camp Bowie Internment Camp (POW) activated.



**Prisoners of War at Camp Bowie
Note the "PW" on the legs of their
trousers**

August 18, 1943 - The first German Prisoners of War arrived at Camp Bowie. Most of these men were members of Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's once proud Africa Corps. When they got settled at Camp Bowie, the 2,700 men were well-behaved. They worked at jobs on the Camp and became day laborers for the

farmers and ranchers in Central Texas. They raised their own vegetables and had their own burial grounds near the Jordan Springs Cemetery. Following the end of the war, the buried soldiers were moved back to their home country.

November 16, 1943 – First Women's Army Corps arrived at Camp Bowie.

December 24, 1943 - Olivia De Havilland, Warner Brother's star, will make a short visit to Dallas Tuesday en route from Brownwood to El Paso.

1944 – The Junior Red Cross was begun with many county schools participating. (Carol Jordan)



1944 Brownwood Center Avenue

September 23, 1944 – A two-place Curtiss A-25 "Helldiver" attack plane crashed in Lake Brownwood. Ernest F. Boruski, flight instructor and Cpl. Edward J. Peterson were aboard the plane. The plane plunged into the lake upside-down and sank in about 17 feet of water. Boruski was thrown out of the aircraft but Peterson was trapped in the cockpit and drowned. A propeller from the plane is on display at the Brown County Museum of History.

1945 - Harvey House in Brownwood was finally closed at the end of World War II.



Coggin Avenue Baptist Church Burns

April 1, 1945 – The Coggin Avenue Baptist church burned on Easter Sunday.

April 7, 1946 – Ten Thousand visitors were at the Brownwood municipal airport facilities to watch an aerial show and participate in open house festivities marking the official opening of the former 1,500-acre army air base for civilian use. This was one of the first in the national and the first in for a Texas army field to revert to civilian use.

August 1, 1946 – War Department declared Camp Bowie as surplus.

On October 1, 1946 - The U. S. Flag came down for the last time at Camp Bowie. On August 1, 1946, the War Department notified Texas members of Congress that the camp had been declared "surplus." The Civilian War Assets Administration was to take charge and began the distribution of the land and buildings.

October 22, 1946 – Texas Feathers, Inc. began operation and was owned by W. C. (Bill) Carpenter and James G. Mitcham. They began business by crafting fletching feathers for the archery business using turkey feathers.

1947 – M. E. Underwood moved his family to Brownwood and began with a pit across West Commerce from the present Underwood's Location.

1947 – Cross Cut's school consolidated with Cross Plains in 1947. (*Handbook of Texas*)

April 6, 1947 – The old Woodland Heights School burned; Baptist church was meeting in the building.

1947 – The first modern drive-in theater for automobiles was the Sunset built on the Zephyr Highway. It closed in 1959.



Red Cross Building at Camp Bowie that was moved.

October 5, 1947 – Open House was held for the new Brown County Red Cross Chapter House at the intersection of Depot and Carnegie Streets behind Carnegie Library. The large structure was donated to the chapter by the American Red Cross and was moved from Camp Bowie to its present site at a cost of \$3,000. The building was the American Red Cross facility at Camp Bowie during World War II. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)



Trans-Texas Airlines

October 8, 1947 - Trans-Texas Airlines begins daily service between Dallas, Brownwood and San Angelo with two 21 Passenger DC-3 Starliners.

1948 – The Brownwood Industrial Corporation was organized for the purpose of purchasing Camp Bowie land and establishing an industrial park.

1948 – The Brown County Council of Girl Scouts was chartered with an executive secretary and a professional staff.

September 9, 1948 - The Council of Social Agencies met tonight at the Chamber of Commerce building to read and pass on a constitution and by-laws prepared by temporary officers of the new organization. The proposed constitution would adopt the name of "Community Service Council." Every agency in the city is to be asked to name a representative to the council if they wish to participate in the plan. Later, if it is desired, the Community Chest will be formed.
(Brownwood Bulletin)

1949 – The Rotary Ann Club was organized in Brownwood. Mrs. Maxine Mitcham serves as first President. *(History of Brownwood Rotary Club)*

February 17, 1949 – The Zephyr Lions Club has been organized at Zephyr, and the first regular meeting was held on this date in the school cafeteria. George Allcorn was the first President.

February 23, 1949 – The Texas Feather Processing Company plant, located in a two-story sheetmetal building owned by Tom Posey on Frisco Street, was destroyed by fire. The fire broke out about 3 a.m. They used turkey and poultry feathers and processed them into millinery adornments to material for feather pillows.

May 13, 1949 - The Civil Aeronautics Administration's district office has recommended that application of the City of Brownwood for a 150-acre airport at Camp Bowie be granted.

November 1, 1949 – Trans Texas Airways (TTA) was flying 3 flights daily from Dallas, Ft. Worth, to Brownwood, Coleman, San Angelo to Fort Stockton, Marfa Alpine to El Paso and back. However, that was cut back to two flights each way in 1950.

November 6, 1949 – Chairmen of the many committees which will take part in Brown County's first Community Chest campaign were announced Saturday by Earl Tate, general chairman for the drive. The campaign will incorporate eight counties charitable, youth and welfare agencies. The eight agencies are Heart Association, USO, Brown County Charities, Salvation Army, Girl Scouts, Cancer Society, Boy Scouts and Contingent Fund. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)



Aerial View of Baptist Encampment

1950 – The Heart of Texas Baptist Encampment, located 8 miles NW of Brownwood on the shores of Lake Brownwood, held its first camp.

1950 - The population of Brown County was 28,607. An increase of 10.3% over 1940. (U.S. Census)

October 14, 1950 - A Brownwood twister caved in two wall of a new \$25,000 administration building at the airport. The northwest corner of the building was completely blown away. Plate glass windows in the building were blown out.

1951 – The Heart of Texas Council, Girl Scouts, was incorporated in 1951 under the direction of Nell Cox serving over 15 counties.

June, 1951 – A downpour of rain within a short time caused flooding in Brownwood and cut off the city for two days.

November 6, 1951 – Leases between the Red Cross and Boy and Girl Scouts were approved Monday at a regular meeting of the executive board of the American Red Cross for them to have offices in the Red Cross building behind Carnegie Library on Depot Street.

December 15, 1951 – City of Early was incorporated with a population of 625 people. In 1935, the Early school had 271 pupils and 9 teachers. The Early community began to grow around the school in the 1940s. A Baptist church was built across from the school in 1942, followed by a Church of Christ building in 1947. In 1948 the community had six businesses, two churches, and the school.

April 10, 1952 – Camp Bowie reopened for 31st Division training of 14, 000 men (Korean War)



May 3, 1952 May, Texas

May 3, 1952 – Three buildings in town of May, Texas, one-fourth of Business District, was destroyed by fire.



Entrance to Eastlawn Memorial Park

June 4, 1952 – A formal opening was held for Eastlawn Memorial Park. A large monument was erected in the cemetery with a picture of the "The Good Shepherd".

September 4, 1952 – Fire destroyed a fourth of the business district in May, Texas.

November, 1952 – First Pancake Supper held by Brownwood Kiwanis Club on Election Day. With the proceeds, the club support a number of youth activities. This is the club's major fund raiser each year.

January 24, 1953 – In the 200 block of Center, Fain's, Rosenberg and Downtown Drug Store was destroyed by fire.



Aerial view of the former Daniel Baker College on Austin and Coggin Streets

1953 – Daniel Baker College was consolidated with Howard Payne College.

February, 1953 – First Girl Scout Cookie Sales held.

1954 – Women first served on a jury in Brown County. They sat on the jury that tried two cases of illegal possession of liquor. The jury for the first trial had five women and one man. For the second trial, there were four women and two men.

June 6, 1954 - "The San Francisco Chief" was placed in service. The new train offered through service to and from San Francisco from New Orleans and Texas points by way of Clovis, N.M. Texas cities would be served through connections with the new "San Francisco Chief." These included the cities of Beaumont, Houston, Brenham, Temple, Brownwood, Dallas and Fort Worth.

June 25, 1954 – Another major flood in Brownwood.



Locomotive 1080

July 29, 1954 - Formal dedication ceremonies for the Santa Fe steam locomotive No. 1080, given to the city of Brownwood, was held Friday at 10 a.m. in Riverside Park. The locomotive was given to Brownwood by Fred B. Garley, president of the Santa Fe System, and was named after him in his honor.

1955 – Brownwood Nursing Home burned.

1955 – The Hardin High School name was changed to R. F. Hardin Elementary after the nine to twelfth grades were integrated into Brownwood High School. The elementary grades remained in Hardin School.

July 1955 – Elvis Presley came to Brownwood with the Louisiana Hayride.

August 19, 1955 – The American Red Cross was added to the Community Chest for this year, there are nine agencies. They are American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of U.S.A., Brown County Charities, Salvation Army, Jaycee Christmas Basket Program, United Defense Fund (USO), Brown County 4-H Clubs and Brown County Clothing Council. Goal for 1955 is \$41, 212. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

January 1, 1956 - Miller & Company, manufacturer of western shirts begins operations in a hanger building at the Brownwood airport. Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Gray are managers of the plant. A total of 87 machines were installed to make the shirts.

1956 – Brownwood Celebrates its 100th Anniversary with a weeklong of various activities.



Parade Down Center Avenue

1957 – KEAN AM radio station went on the air. The station was bought by the Farren twins, Eddie and Jimmie and their sister Pat Farren Davidson. Eddie and Jimmie were the pioneers in "Country Music."

June, 1957 – Camp Wood Lake of the Brown County Girl Scout Council opens.

June 29, 1957 Brownwood Television Service held a demonstration in their offices in Bluffview addition, next to the highway. Their tower was erected, most of their cables stretched along the streets. In August 1957 they began to hook up house sets to the cables.

1957 – Early, Texas, Lions Club was chartered.

1957 - Three men escaped the jail in July 1957 through a light fixture hole in a cell and slid down blankets tied to the roof. They were captured three days later near Hasse in Comanche County.

August 27, 1957 – The *Brownwood Bulletin* has purchased the *Brownwood Banner* and the two publications will be merged on September 1. The Banner's final edition will be published Thursday of this week, August 29th. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

1958 - Zephyr was voted an independent school district so that the few students there would not have to be bussed to a nearby school.

January 13, 1958 – The first Blanket Lions Club was organized in the Blanket school lunchroom. The club later disbanded.

1959 – The first annual meeting of the 19-county Heart of Texas Girl Scout Council was held.

August, 1959 – The "59 Garden Club was organized with sixteen local women and plans were made for a new Brownwood garden club. There were thirty charter members. (*Book Eight, In The Life and Lives of Brown County People*)

November 11, 1959 – Early Lions Club was organized.

1960 - The population of Brown County was 24,728. A decrease of 13.6% over 1950. (U.S. Census)

February 9, 1960 – Northwest Elementary School building, Brownwood, in Bluffview was completed.



Twisted Steel Beams at Brownwood Memorial Hall

May 26, 1960 – A bolt of lightning during a thunderstorm started a fire in the Brownwood Memorial Hall that destroyed the building.

1961 – Zephyr Rodeo Association was organized with Morrison Carpenter elected president.

May 9, 1961 – The new Brownwood Central High School at Crockett and Good Shepherd was dedicated.

1962 – The Brownwood Mafia was organized. The Mafia funded events including fish fries, dove hunts, appreciation dinners and receptions. The groups have also been active in politics.

January 5, 1962 – Fire destroyed the Pierce Brothers Lumber Company in Early. Many residents were without electricity for several hours.

January 17, 1962 – Charles Lamkin, Jr. is names president of Brown County United Fund. Name changes from Brown County Community Chest use in last fall's 1962 campaign.

April 12, 1962 – The Early Volunteer Fire Department was organized at the Early High School in a called meeting by the Early City Council, the Early Lions Club and residents of the community. M J. Flowers was elected as the first Fire Chief. (*Book Eight, In The Life and Lives of Brown County People*)

October 8, 1962 – Camp Bowie declared as surplus again by War Department.

1963 - Brownwood selected as a 3M manufacturing site.

August, 1963 – American Legion Hall in Brownwood, Texas, was burned.

September 12, 1963 – Dedication of the Brownwood Coliseum was held with Governor John Connally as the principle speaker. At 6 pm a dinner was held honoring the Governor, on the roof garden of the Browntowner Hotel, then being remodeled by Herman Bennett. There were some 1,500 people present, plus nearly 150 on the platform. Construction was unique in that the one piece concrete dome top was poured on the ground and then lifted up into place. The method was to pour the circular concrete foundation, then to erect 36 round steel posts. Earth was mounded up in the interior till the mound was the shape of the inside of the dome. The dome was then poured. The lift of the dome was completed on October 17, 1962.

Raising the roof on the Brownwood Coliseum



November 5, 1963 – The first Howard Payne Yellow Jackets basketball game was played in the Brownwood Coliseum. They beat Tarleton State College Plowboys by 63-45. Yellow Jacket basketball teams have won 21 conference titles from the Lone Star, Texas Collegiate Athletic Association and American Southwest Conferences while using the Brownwood Coliseum.

1964 – The first Annual Brown County Rodeo was held.

1964 – The first Rattlesnake Roundup was held by the Jaycees. Pat Coursey was the person that launched this first roundup.

1964 – The Davidsons established an FM radio station KFRN. It did not meet with great success. In 1973, the Davidsons sold the equipment and the license. The new owners gave the station the name of KLSN.

1964 – (*Brownwood Bulletin*) Southwest States Telephone Company merged with General Telephone Company of the Southwest.

January 1, 1964 – The seven number dialing phone system went in effect.

March 24, 1964 – Fire ripped through a block of Fisk Street in Brownwood, destroying State Farm Insurance, Towery Barber Shop and two empty buildings.

June 30, 1964 – Superior Cable Company announced that it would build a plant in Brownwood.

August 24, 1964 – Brownwood's \$180,000 National Guard Armory off the Brady Highway was dedicated. Major Gen. Everett S. Simpson of Amarillo, commander of the 36th Division, was the speaker at the event.

1965 - Manufacturing began at 3-M plant in Brownwood.

March 19, 1965 – A familiar sight on East Depot Street in Brownwood since 1947, the Red Cross Building will soon be moved to make way for the new Brownwood Public Library. The building housed Boy Scout and Girl Scout headquarters, along with Brown County Chapter of the America Red Cross. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

May 3, 1965 - According to the *Brownwood Bulletin*, two prisoners escaped from the Brown County Jail on a Sunday, May 2, 1965, about 10 a.m., when they locked the jailer, Doug Jarvis, and a trusty, Cecil Hamlett, in a cell and fled from the city in an automobile stolen at a nearby church. They were Jerry Gage, 28, of Houston and Eugene Wilson, 34, whose mother resided in Brownwood. The jailer and trusty had gone to the "bull pen" to get something stored in it when Wilson lunged at Jarvis and put a knife to his throat and said "You can take it easy or you can take it hard." Jarvis told Wilson to go ahead, the jail was all his.

The escaped prisoners took a 1954 car owned y Mrs. Royce Newcomb parked at St. John's Episcopal Church. The car was later found abandoned about 5 p.m. Sunday in Brady. It was 30

minutes before a woman went to the jail to see a prisoner and Jarvis yelled out the window to the woman to go to the police and call the sheriff.

July 27, 1965 – Brown County Chapter of the American Red Cross held open house and annual meeting at the new Red Cross headquarters, 509 East Depot. The north wing of the old building was moved diagonally across the street and used as the new headquarters for the Chapter. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

September 26, 1965 – Open house was held at the new headquarters of the Heart of Texas Girl Scout Council at 700 E. Baker Street. The building cost \$15,000 and was constructed of masonry and brick.

April 22, 1966 – Three businesses in the 300 block of Main burned, Martin Merchandise Mart, Eat-Bite and Western Union.

May 19, 1966 – Dedication ceremonies were held for the new 3M plant.



Brownwood Public Library

August, 1966 - A city bond issue for \$95,000 was passed September 24, 1963, to construct a new library building. This bond issue, along with funding provided by the Texas State Library and the federal Library Services and Construction Act of 1964, provided the \$175,000 necessary to defray construction costs. Construction began with a groundbreaking ceremony on November 4, 1965. It is governed by an eleven-member board of trustees who are appointed to three-year terms by the Brownwood City Council. The library is directed by a professional librarian.

October, 1966 – A Project Head Start program utilized the old Hardin School. The program closed in 1970 and the old R. F. Hardin High School closed too.

November 20, 1966 – The new Brownwood Public Library was dedicated.

1967 – Brownwood Police Department, jail and court, moved into their new building across from coliseum.

October 22, 1967 – Ground breaking ceremonies was held for the new Brownwood Community Hospital.

February 25, 1968 – Open House was held at the new city hall, located at 110 S Greenleaf, and police station-courts building, located at 500 W Commerce. The city hall building was built at a cost of \$179,718 including land and furnishes. Herman Bennett Company of Brownwood was contractor for the building, finished in December. It contains 5,800 square feet.

The police-station-courts building, located at 500 West Commerce was remodeled by the Miller Building Company. The remodeling cost was \$45,000. The building, formerly home of the district State Highway Department office, is part of a 7.2 acre, 7-building complex purchased by the city for \$75,000. The main building's lower floor houses the city police department and the corporation courtroom, while the second floor contains the jail. The jail has a capacity for 18 prisoners.

July 20, 1968 – The last passenger train to stop in Brownwood pulled out a 6:10 a.m. Saturday. Only a handful of people were at the depot to see an era end with the last train's departure. The "California Special," Nos. 66-75 from Houston-Temple-Brownwood-Clovis and the "California Special" Nos. 65-76 from Clovis-Brownwood-Temple-Houston were discontinued July 19-20, 1968.

April, 1969 – Women's Auxiliary of Brownwood Community Hospital started.



Brownwood Hospital

July 20, 1969 – Open House was held for the new Brownwood hospital. They started out with three floors, later added two more.

August 19, 1969 – The Brownwood City Council voted to remove the downtown parking meters.

August 20, 1969 – The Brown County Authority Board merged the two existing hospitals, Medical Arts, and Memorial Hospital to form Brownwood Community Hospital. The Brownwood Community Hospital opens for patients. Patients were moved from the Medical Arts and Memorial Hospital to the new Brownwood hospital.

October 16, 1969 – The Academy of Freedom was dedicated with Paul Harvey as the main speaker.

1970 - The population of Brown County was 25,877. An increase of 4.6% over 1960. (U.S. Census)

October 12, 1970 – The Brownwood-Brown County Retired Teachers Unit, originally Brownwood District Retired Teachers, was organized with seven retired teachers. Blanche Shear was elected president. Membership at the close of the first year was twenty-one. (*Book Eight, In The Life and Lives of Brown County People*)

December, 1970 - The most famous prisoner, in the Brown County Jail, was Rae Bourbon, 76, a female impressionist that had worked with Mae West. He had left 70 dogs, 5 cats, and 2 skunks with an animal shelter in Big Spring, run by a man named Blount. He did not like the way the animals were being treated. So Bourbon to two of his "friends" from Kansas City named Crane and Crisco to go to Big Springs and one of them shot Blount.



Rae Bourbon with Mae West

Bourbon was brought to Brownwood for trial. Bourbon was tried and convicted by a Brown County jury of conspiracy to commit murder and Bourbon died while the case was on appeal. Bourbon was a person who claimed to have known and helped Pancho Villa smuggle guns from Texas and was a personal friend of many of the movie stars in Hollywood. Bob Hope even called William B. Bell, his attorney, one day, about him while Bell was in a pre-trial hearing. Bell's daughter, Susan, has written a screen play about the case.

An escape Bourbon made from the jail in December 1970, made the headlines. One day he asked to make a phone call, and when finished he looked for the jailer but did not find him. The outside door had been left standing open, so he walked out. After he got down the street, he reasoned that maybe they had let him escape so that they could shoot him and it would all be over. After he was discovered by law enforcement officers just a short distance away from the jail in a pickup, he was merely escorted back to his cell.

January 19, 1971 – Four homemade fire bombs were thrown in the east window of the Brownwood County courthouse. One exploded, burning the floor in the county courtroom.

February 28, 1971 – The post office in Grosvenor was closed. Mail service was moved to Brownwood.



Brownwood Bulletin Office on Carnegie Avenue

March 31, 1971 – The *Brownwood Bulletin* office was moved to Carnegie Avenue.

March, 1971 – Early Lions Club building completed.

September 14, 1971 – The Brownwood City Council approved building a new fire station in Woodland Heights.

1973 – The Women's Club of Brownwood was founded. The club is dedicated to the philosophy of serving the community. "United in Friendship, inspired by Need" is the club motto.

July 23, 1973 – Ground breaking ceremonies were held for the building of a Kohler plant on 166 acres.



Adams Street Community Center

August, 1973 – The Brownwood City Council announces building of the Adams Street Community Center.

October 15, 1973 – Zephyr's first Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated and a charter issued. The directors were L. W. (Toss) Coffey, S. D. Keeler and R. O. Kirkpatrick.

1974 – New additions were made at the Brownwood Community Hospital. The additions were made to the Lab and Business Office. The fifth floor was completed and the fourth floor was shelled.

February, 1974 – The first Annual Cherry Pie Auction was held to benefit youth sports in Brownwood.

February, 1974 – The first service of First Baptist Church went on the air and was the first and only church to go on television over a local channel.

April, 1974 – Two jail prisoners died after drinking wood alcohol, which was reported to be clearly marked poison. All 15 inmates who drank the liquid were hospitalized. Tommy Newton, 18, and Joe Edwards, 18, died from poison.

June 28, 1974 - The Brown County Humane Society was created in Brown County. The first shelter was built in 1975 and was located at 3016 Milam Drive.

October 31, 1974 – Howard Payne College was raised to the standard of a University, and became Howard Payne University.

1975 – Kohler Company plant was opened in Brownwood, and eventually employing up to 1,200 workers.

April, 1975 – Texas 4-H Conference Center opens on Lake Brownwood. The 78-acre center is owned by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M System.

May 17, 1975 - KOXE FM station when on the air. Bill Jamar established the station. This was the second FM station in Brownwood.

November, 1975 – The first annual Feast of Thanksgiving was held in the Brownwood Coliseum.

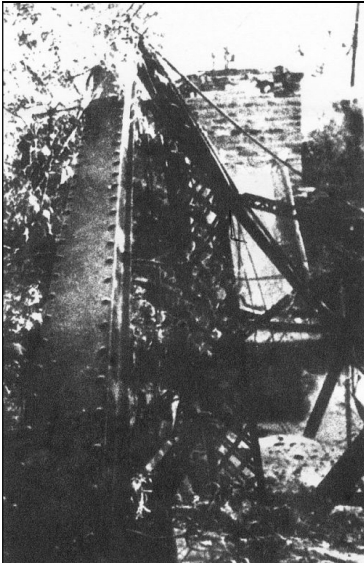
1976 - The Santa Fe Railroad Harvey House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

June 17, 1976 - Texas Aeronautics Commission approved Wednesday a permit for Eagle Commuter Airlines of Brownwood, owned by Gerald James of Brownwood, to provide three round-trip flights daily from that city to Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. The firm would fly a twin-engine Cessna 402 aircraft with eight passengers and two pilots. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

November 25, 1976 – Rotary Square, across from Brown County Courthouse, was dedicated as part of Bicentennial celebration by United States. Thanks were given to Stuart Coleman, Putter Jarvis and Harry Miller for the work they did on the project.

December 21, 1976 – For a second time, a Blanket Lions Club was organized.

May 5, 1977 – Pecan Valley Kiwanis Club was chartered



November 10, 1977 – The iron bridge across the Pecan Bayou fell into the river. The bridge was built in the late 1800s.

The bridge railing was struck by a 1969 car. The car barely cleared the bridge before it collapsed. The car in the accident was totally destroyed.

Iron Bridge Over Pecan Bayou

1978 – Kroger Grocery Store opens at 302 N. Main St.

Dec, 3, 1978 - The *Brownwood Bulletin* reported that the Daughters of The Republic of Texas Board of Management approved of the organization of a chapter in Brownwood. President General, Mrs. G. F, Hollis of Coldspring, conducted the installation and chartering service of the Welcome W. Chandler Chapter. The organization meeting luncheon was held on May 1, 1979 at the Brownwood Country Club. There were 22 charter members from Brownwood and surrounding counties.

September 13, 1979 – The Pecan Valley Genealogical Society was organized. The organizing meeting was held in the Brownwood Library with eighteen people in attendance. Mrs. James (Paula) Ruder was elected chairperson.

July, 1979 – The Early Chamber of Commerce began by forming a board, creating bylaws, and visions for the approximate population of 1900. The first president was Jesse Sudderth.

September, 1979 – The first Annual Pecan Valley Arts Festival was held in Festival Park at Camp Bowie.

1980 - The population of Brown County was 33,057. An increase of 27.7% over 1970. (U.S. Census)

1980s - The Brownwood Quilters Guild organized in the 1980s with six members.

1980 – The American Red Cross constructed their new office building across from the Boy Scout office at 600 East Adams.

1980 – The fourth floor of the Brownwood Community Hospital was completed.

Comanche Trail Council, BSA Office

November, 1980 - The Comanche Trail Council's Boy Scout office, which was located at 602 East Adams, was built and occupied in November 1980. The land was leased from the city for fifty years at \$1 per year. The office cost \$104,826 to build and was built while Eldon Sehnert was Scout Executive. In 2007, the Texas Trail Council closed the office and turned the building over to the City of Brownwood with a quitclaim deed on April 23, 2007. At noon, September 4, 2009, the City of Brownwood demolished the Scout office.



November 17, 1980 – Lake Brownwood Lions Club (39022) Chartered

August 28, 1980 – The Brownwood Community Hospital was leased by the Brown County Hospital Authority to Hospital Corporation of America.

September 1980 – The name of the Brownwood Community Hospital was officially changed to Brownwood Regional Hospital.



Heartland Mall in Early

October, 1980 – Heartland Mall in Early opened its doors. Heartland Mall began with anchor stores JC Penney and Bealls signing the first two leases in 1978. Another original tenant was Chick-Fil-A.

1981 - An additional 25 feet was added to the height of the Lake Brownwood dam. Present engineers consider the possibility of a "thousand-year flood" that would top the present dam. A major portion of the cost of this addition was borne by the Federal government.

February 8, 1981 – The Brown County Chapter of the American Red Cross moved into their new facility at 600 East Adams, while celebrating both 64 years of continuous service and their 100th birthday of the National Red Cross. (Carol Jordan)

February 25, 1981 – The new Heart of Texas Rotary Club was presented its charter. They first met in Sid Richardson Hall. This was a morning club. (*History of Brownwood Rotary Club*)

June 29, 1981 – A new county jail was completed and the prisoners from the old jail, that was located across the street from the Brown County courthouse, were moved to the new modern jail.



Early City Hall

1982 – Early moves into their new City Hall and Fire Station.

August, 1982 –The Pearl Griffin Memorial Latch Key program, sponsored by the Union Presbyterian Church, was started. It is non-denominational and is geared to children from kindergarten through six grade.
(*Brownwood Bulletin*)

November, 1982 – The Pecan Valley Toastmasters Club was started. There had not been an active Toastmasters organization in Brownwood area for something like 20 years. Bob Caffey was elected as President. (*Book Eight, In The Life and Lives of Brown County People*)

November 3, 1982 – The Brownwood Country Club burns for the first time and was rebuilt.

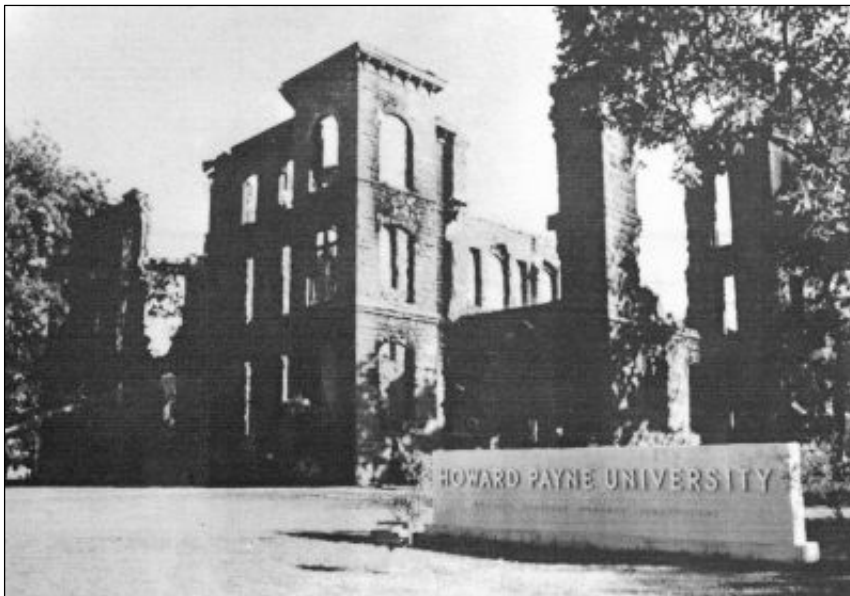
1983 – Additions to the Brownwood Regional Hospital were completed which included the ER and HIM, as well as the addition of two surgical suites, an enlarged Radiology Department and a new CT Scan.

October 14, 1983 - A 1.395-acre tract, that was the land that the Santa Fe Depot and Harvey House in Brownwood occupied, was deeded to Kelly and Susan Lewis.

November, 1983 – First annual Community Thanksgiving Feast at Howard Payne University.

December 24, 1983 - Greenwood Office Supply and a café were destroyed by fire. It was so cold that the water froze on what was left of the building.

January 17, 1984 - The land that the Santa Fe Depot and Harvey House had occupied was granted to the Depot Development, Inc. The Interfirst Bank (now Bank of America) which held the mortgage on the property had to foreclose. The property was next in the hand of the Pecan Valley Economic Development Board.



Old Main – Howard Payne University

May 8, 1984 – Howard Payne University's Old Main, the school's 94-year-old administration building was destroyed by fire early Tuesday morning. Flames fanned by 40 mph winds consumed the three-story structure, toppling the bell tower and the sandstone walls. The building also housed offices, the school of education and the English department. Many of the

records of the University, that were stored in the basement, were destroyed by fire and water. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

May, 1984 The Brownwood Quilt Guild was started by Helen Reid. She helped with a quilt show that was held in the Brown Wood Museum of History Annex.

1985 - The first annual RiverFest got underway at Riverside Park.



Early Post Office Sub-Station

May 1, 1985 – The Early, Texas post office opens as a sub-station of the Brownwood post office.
February 25, 1986 - Eagle Airlines has been forced to discontinue operations pending an investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration. It was based on exceeded flying times on turbocharge clamps, and a couple of other things. They were out of business.

September 24, 1986 - Exec Express Airlines starts daily service to Brownwood from Dallas/Fort Worth, but filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 1988. Exec Express II resumes normal flights after its planes were grounded by Federal Aviation Administration for improper maintenance schedules and records.

1987 – Soup Kitchen begins. The first location of the Soup Kitchen was at Main and Austin. It later was moved to Lakeway Drive. Initially the soup kitchen served only soup, coffee, tea and crackers.

September 1, 1987 – The Brownwood Regional Hospital lease was transferred to HealthTrust, Inc.

1988 – The first Annual Founders Day celebration sponsored by the Early Chamber of Commerce.

1988 - The Fort Worth and Western Railroad (FWWR) began operations in 1988, with 6.25 miles (10.06 km) of track that it had bought from the Burlington Northern. The Fort Worth and Western Railroad is a Class III short-line railroad headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas. Operating only within the state of Texas, its main freight service route is between Carrollton, Fort Worth, Brownwood, and San Angelo Junction.

1988 – Brownwood Police Chaplain program was started with fourteen chaplains.

November 3, 1989 – The Brownwood Country Club was destroyed by fire for the second time and was rebuilt.

1990 - The population of Brown County was 34,371. An increase of 4.0% over 1980. (U.S. Census)

1990 - St. John's Anglican Church starts their Food Pantry for those in need of food.
(Brownwood Bulletin)

1990 – Community Concert Band began. Band is made up of high school students, current and former band directors and community members.

March 25, 1990 – The first "Horizon" of the Brownwood Bulletin was published and has been printed each year, usually during the month of February.

April 25, 1990 – As much as 16 inches of rain fell during a 24-hour period. Brownwood Airport measure 16.05 inches. Flooding was the worst in Brownwood area since 1954. About 1,300 people were evacuated from low-lying areas of Brown County. Floods caused millions of dollars in damages.

1991 – Aldersgate Enrichment Center opened its doors for business to serve the handicapped and challenged people of Brown County.

1991 – The Watson Imaging Center/MRI Suite was completed at the Brownwood Regional Hospital. Renovations were made to the Obstetrics and Women's Service Area.

February, 1991 – Officials with the City of Brownwood and Brown County agreed to the purchase of property to be used for the relocation of the Brownwood/Brown County Health Department.

March, 1991 – Representatives of the Brownwood ISD and the Brownwood Police Department announced the planned induction of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program into the school district.

April 4, 1991 – Bill Bell, of the Brownwood Industrial Foundation, was awarded the first Team Brownwood Distinguished Service Award at the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce banquet.



Lone Star Airlines

June 9, 1991- Lone Star Airlines (name changed from Exec Express II) began service to Brownwood using a turbo turbo-C-powered plane, the Fairchild Metro II in addition to its Beechcraft C-99 airlines.

June 12, 1991 – The final edition of the *Brown County Gazette* was published in Bangs.

July 28, 1991 – Radio Station KPSM-FM signed off the air at midnight.



Brownwood City Hall

August, 1991 – The Brownwood City Hall is moved to Center Avenue from its former Greenleaf location

October 21, 1991 - The land that the Santa Fe Depot and Harvey House had occupied was transferred to the Brownwood Civic Improvement Foundation, Inc.

December, 1991 - December 1991, a flood caused by the overflowing watershed from rains in nearby towns cost Brownwood about \$700,000 in damage, officials said. This was the second major flood in Brownwood in the past year.

1992 – TSTC, Texas State Technical College opened on Main Street in Brownwood. TSTC is the only state-supported technical college system in Texas. They had 13 employees and approved to offer courses in up to 7 vocational-technical programs. As of the official census date that first quarter, just over 70 students had enrolled, 9 full-time and 62 part-time.

1992 – The Outpatient Center and Administrative Offices at Brownwood Regional Hospital were built.

February 23, 1992 – Lake level was 7.5 feet over the spillway of Lake Brownwood. Flooding in Brownwood.

May, 1992 – First annual local U. S. Postal Service "Stamp Out Hunger" campaign was held in Brown County. To participate, one just had to fill a bag with non-perishable foods and leave it by their mailbox before their usual delivery time.

October 29, 1992 – DanHil Containers, Inc. became the first resident of Brownwood's Industrial Park.

January, 1993 – Brown County 911 emergency system was put into effect.

February 12, 1993 – A rose garden in Coggin Park is dedicated in honor of Mary Marshall Holley, founder of Brownwood Beautification Commission.

March, 1993 – The name of the Brownwood Regional Hospital was changed to Brownwood Regional Medical Center.

April 12, 1993 – Brownwood School Trustees vote 4-3 to approve a request by LULAC to elect board members from single member districts. The board also approved soccer for Brownwood High School.

April 25, 1993 – Blanket dedicates it new city hall.

May 19, 1993 – Sav-On Food closes its last store at Coggin and Austin.

August 5, 1993 – A video developed by GTE promoting Brown County as "The Profit Center of Texas" debuts at a Brownwood Coliseum gala.

August 20, 1993 – The new National Guard Armory is dedicated at the facility, 5601 FM 45 South, Brownwood. The armory is named after Groner Pitts, who had devoted years to making Brownwood the No. 1 National Guard Unit in the nation.

October 1, 1993 - Good Samaritan Ministries opened inside Sunset Mission occupying two Sunday school rooms. Their ministries has expanded over the years to include a food pantry, Food for Thought and the Deer Project, a resale clothing store, and limited financial assistance with utilities, rent and medicine.



Wal-Mart Supercenter in Brownwood

October 20, 1993 – Wal-Mart opens its 200,000-square-foot plus Supercenter in Brownwood. They did \$60,000,000. gross their first year. The center is open seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.

December, 1993 – Brownwood Memorial Hospital on Coggin Avenue was demolished.

1994 – Boys and Girls Club opens in Brownwood.

1994 – First Annual Mystery Dinner Theater (MDT), which will be benefiting the Ark Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelter.

1994 – The James B. N. Walker Cancer Center and the Medical Office Building were added at the Brownwood Regional Medical Center.

1994 – First Annual Fall Business Showcase held in the Brownwood Coliseum.

August, 1994 – The T. R. Havins Substance Abuse Punishment facility opened in the Camp Bowie area.

September, 1994 – First Annual Business Showcase was held by the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce.

April 5, 1995 – Blanket post office moves into their new building.

April 24, 1995 – The acquisition of HealthTrust, Inc. by Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corporation was made and they took over the operation of the Brownwood Regional Medical Center.

September 22, 1995 - The name of the A.T. & S.F railroad was changed to the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway. The name was shortened to BNSF. This change came about from the merger of the Burlington Northern Inc. (parent company of Burlington Northern Railroad) and the Santa Fe Pacific Corporation (parent company of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway.)

1996 – Boys & Girls Club of Brown County charter became effective, and met in the Old Lions Gym. The club is now located in the former South Elementary School, 1701 Ave. L. (2010 Horizons)

1996 – Virgil Cowin elected Brownwood Police Chief.



Goodwill Industries

1996 – Goodwill Industries opened in Brownwood. They opened in the fall of that year.

May 19, 1997 – Heart of Texas Rotary Club disbands; Brownwood Rotary Club takes over U. S. Flag project. (*History of Brownwood Rotary Club*)

November 26, 1997 – Family Service Center was incorporated. In 1994 it was the Community Collaborative Committee formed to speak out on behalf of the families and children in Brown County.



Texas Rock Crusher Diesels 101, 102, 103, 104

March, 1998 - The Texas Rock Crusher railroad began operations in March 1998 when it acquired 5.65 miles of trackage on two former BNSF (ex-ATSF) industrial spurs in Brownwood. Texas Rock Crusher serves several customers on the Camp Bowie industrial spur, which branches off the former Santa Fe main line west of the Brownwood yard and meanders through the southern sections of town. Its other customer is the Vulcan limestone quarry, which is located on the side of a hill on the west side of Brownwood, south of the BNSF Lampasas Subdivision main line.

October, 1998 - Big Sky took over Lone Star Airlines following their bankruptcy.

February, 1999 – First year of the Stars of Texas Juried Art Exhibit held in the Santa Fe Depot. Each February the Brownwood Civic and Cultural Center hosts the annual Stars of Texas Juried Art Exhibit. This juried exhibit runs for two weeks. The Stars of Texas Juried Art Exhibit was conceived in 1999 in order to showcase the newly restored Santa Fe Depot. The Arts Council of Brownwood is the leading sponsor of the exhibit.

March 30, 1999 – The steam locomotive #1080 was moved from Riverside Park to Coleman Plaza in front of the Santa Fe Depot.

May, 1999 – Brownwood Regional Medical Center was spun from a Columbia/HCA facility into a group of hospitals owned by Triad Hospitals, Inc.

2000 - The population of Brown County was 37,708. An increase of 4.0 % over 1990. (U.S. Census)

2000 - A grant was secured from the State of Texas in 2000, and the Santa Fe Depot was completely renovated and is used today for all kinds of events and activities.

2000 – Hollywood Theaters opens in Heartland Mall in Early, Texas.

January 29, 2000 – The May United Methodist Church was burned. A new church was built.

January 6, 2001 - State-contracted crews closed Austin Avenue in Brownwood at the railroad underpass in preparation for construction of a new overpass. The original underpass was built in 1913.

October 26, 2001 - The Brownwood Reunion Celebration (BRC) in 2001 was the first worldwide reunion via web cams placed strategically throughout the event. The BRC attracts approximately 25,000 people over the three-day weekend festival and 150,000+ virtually. The first year the Reunion was held in October, but in later years it was moved to the third weekend in September.

2002 – The Joint Law Enforcement Center opened.

2002 First Annual Wildfire Academy held to help firefighters to better their skills in fighting wildfires. It accommodates all skill levels of municipal, rural and wildland firefighters.

2002 – The first Annual "Day in the Park" was held at Coggin Park by the Family Service Center.

April 4, 2002 – The W. C. "Bill" Monroe Overpass on Austin Avenue was dedicated. Monroe served as Brownwood Mayor from 1964 to 1968.

2002 Flood at Al Ulrich's Home in Shamrock Shores

July 7, 2002 – The City of Brownwood experienced yet another flood around Commerce Street. The water flowed seven and a half feet over the spillway at Lake Brownwood. The flood lasted for three days and almost got into the downtown district. It closed CC Woodson Blvd.



September 30, 2002 - Big Sky Airlines made its final flight out of Brownwood.

October 1, 2002 - Mesa Airlines began service, replacing Big Sky Airlines, and operating the 19 seat Metroliner. It was a subsidiary of Mesa Air Group out of Phoenix.

December, 2002 – A new entrance was completed at Brownwood Regional Medical Center, including patient registration and waiting areas. A new Health Information Management addition was added in June 2002. A new ICU area was added in May 2004.



Texas Trails Council Patch

January 1, 2003 – The Chisholm Trail Council, BSA, Abilene, and the Comanche Trail Council, BSA, Brownwood, combined to form the Texas Trails Council, BSA, with headquarters in Abilene, Texas.

August 20, 2003 - Through the Brownwood Economic Development Corporation, the City of Brownwood assumed a \$304,000 debt for the Santa Fe Depot Civic & Cultural Center and Harvey House. The BCIF received grants from the Texas Department of Transportation for the projects and nurtured the restoration of the buildings.

2004 - A grant was obtained to renovate the upstairs of the Harvey House.

February, 2004 – Construction continued on Center Street with brick pavers at the intersections and landscaping along both sides of the street.

February 1, 2004 - Mesa Airlines more than doubled the fares of its flights between Brownwood and Dallas-Fort Worth from \$74 to \$150 one way and from \$150 to \$320 round trip. Flights were only 10 to 20% filled.

2005 – The Heritage Association of Brown County was organized to assist with collaboration of all historical organizations and activities in the area, and the sharing of resources on historical projects or in areas of operations.

2005 – The First Annual Heart of Texas Quilt Show was held.

2005 – The Firearms Museum of Texas was opened inside the old jail of the Brown County Museum of History. The museum featured exhibits on the history and use of firearms as well as information on firearms as they relate to Texas history and contemporary use, including the responsibilities of firearms ownership. The museum director was Steve Blake.



Display in "The Firearms Museum of Texas" by Steve Blake.

January 24, 2005 - Two men were killed Saturday in a plane crash near Brownwood were Dallas doctors experienced in organ transplants. Dr. Paulose Mathai, 50, and Dr. Karl Robert Brinker, 58, died after the small plane flown by Mathai hit a power line and crashed into a strand of trees before catching fire. The two practiced at Methodist Health System where Mathai was a lung specialist and Brinker a kidney specialist. The crash occurred as the plane approached Brownwood Regional Airport about 7 a.m. Saturday, January 22.

March 12, 2005 - Mesa Airlines made its last flight out on Brownwood. Mesa left Brownwood when the federal government eliminated Brownwood from the Essential Air Service subsidy, saying the route didn't generate enough passengers. This was the end of passenger service out of Brownwood except for charter flights.

April 29, 2005 – First Annual Heart of Texas Quilt Show (Brownwood Quilters' Guild) held in the Home Economics Building at the Brown County Fair grounds.

June, 2005 – Guardian EMS opened in Brownwood.

October 10, 2005 - Brownwood City Council members approved an agreement Tuesday that placed the management of the Harvey House under the management of the Brownwood Economic Development Corporation. The BEDC staff moved its offices out of City Hall to the second floor of the Harvey House. The BEDC developed tentative agreements with the board of directors of the Gordon Wood Museum and Hall of Champions to occupy the portion of the second floor of the Harvey House that is not used by the BEDC until the museum finds a permanent home.



Corinne T. Smith

2006 – The name of the Brown County Humane Society was changed to the Corinne T. Smith Animal Center in honor of Corinne T. Smith. She was one of the original organizers of the Humane Society in Brown County and she was the director for almost thirty years.

March 31, 2006 - Ladon Spence decorated a Harvey Girl room on the second floor of the Harvey House.

Fred Harvey is credited with creating the first restaurant chain in the United States. Harvey and his company also became leaders in promoting tourism in the American Southwest in the late 19th century. The company and its employees, including the famous waitresses who came to be known as "Harvey Girls", successfully brought new higher standards of both civility and dining to a region widely regarded in the era as "the Wild West".



Restored Harvey Girl Room

April, 2006 – Brownwood celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Coggin Park. The park had many improvements made to it that year due to a group of citizens raising money to buy equipment for a larger playground area.

April, 2006 – First annual Big Brothers Big Sisters of Brown County's "Bowl for Kids' Sake" at Academy Lanes in Brownwood was held.

April 7, 2006 – Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce celebrates its Centennial. The chamber is 100 years old.

June, 2006 – The Brownwood Public Library's History and Genealogy Research Branch, located across from the Brown County Courthouse was opened. The branch library has all the books, microfilm and computers needed to research history on locate an ancestor.



Inside Blanket Museum

July 29, 2006 – The Blanket Museum of History was opened, to display and preserve the history of Blanket. Doris Teague is the volunteer curator of the museum.

September, 2006 – The first year that “The Feast of Brownwood” was held in the coliseum as part of the Annual Business Showcase, sponsored by the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce.

January 1, 2007 – The Heart of Texas Council, Girl Scouts, headquarters in Brownwood, Lonestar Council, headquarters in Austin, Bluebonnet Council, headquarters in Waco and El Camino Council, headquarters in San Angelo, of the Girls Scouts, USA, join forces to create the Central Texas Council, with headquarters in Austin. A branch office was kept open in Brownwood.

February, 2007 - Howard Payne University hosted the first annual Currie-Strickland Distinguished Lectures in Christian Ethics.

2007 – First Annual Spring Business Showcase held in Brownwood Coliseum.

July 25, 2007 – Triad Hospitals, Inc. merges into Community Health Systems, Inc. headquartered in Franklin, Tennessee.

August 27, 2007 - Paradigm School started classes in a leased building on Abundant Life Church property in Brownwood's Commerce Square.

HO-Gauge Layout at Lehnis Train Museum

September 14, 2007 – The Martin and Frances Lehnis Museum Railroad Museum opens for the first time during the Brownwood Reunion. Mary Irving was named the curator in July of 2007.

The museum houses the collection of Martin and Frances Lehnis including railroad artifacts, model trains and a 7 ½ in gauge live steam locomotive.



January 15, 2008 – Big Brothers Big Sisters prepared their new office in the Family Service Center as they prepared to start operations in Brown County. Amy Hubbard served as the part-time paid staff member.



Zephyr Post Office

February 10, 2008 – Zephyr Community Historical Association organized by 25 people to help preserve the history of Zephyr and create an outdoor museum, including the Zephyr Post Office.

September, 2008 – First Heart of Texas Marching Festival held at Early Longhorn Stadium.

October 31, 2008 - Brownwood Professional Firefighters Association hosted their first Annual Haunted House. Screams and boos bellowed throughout the Brown County Fair Grounds home economic building Thursday night during a haunted house sponsored by Brownwood Professional Firefighters Association Local 2863. The haunted house will be open from 7 p.m.

until midnight today and Saturday, with proceeds to benefit the B.J. Carnes Scholarship Fund and BPFPA Haunted House Fund. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)

March, 2009 – First annual "Empty Bowls Project" by Good Samaritan was held. For a donation in any amount, a person picked out a hand-painted ceramic bowl and enjoyed a simple meal of soup or beans, bread and water. They then took their bowl home with them following the meal.

March 9, 2009 - Brownwood police detective James Fuller will serve as the department's interim police chief after current Chief Virgil Cowin retires on March 24 and until a new chief is hired. This was the first appointed chief by the City Council. Before this all police chiefs were elected.

September 18-20, 2009 - During the 9th Brownwood Reunion Celebration, for the first time, the Brownwood Reunion Celebration featured a Honor a Hero children's parade held late Saturday morning. This event had children to march in a parade to honor a hero in their life.

October 31, 2009 – First Annual Halloween Trick-or-Treat Downtown Brownwood.

December 4-5, 2009 – First "Annual Christmas Under the Stars Festival" was held in Brownwood in the Historic Depot & Lehnis Museum Complex.

2010 - The population of Brown County was 38,106. An increase of 1.1% over 2000. (U.S. Census)



Senior Citizens Center

June 23, 2010 – Senior Citizens Center moved to the former Coliseum Annex. Here they offer fellowship and a meal, five days a week, for all senior citizens of Brownwood.

July, 2010 – Bowie Family Aquatic Center was opened. Pool has a capacity of 400 people.



Display at 100th Anniversary of Santa Fe Depot

August 6, 2010 - Brownwood Chamber of Commerce and the Martin & Frances Lehnis Railroad Museum hosted a reception in the Santa Fe Depot to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the depot on August 6, 1910.

September, 2010 – This was the first time "National Night Out" was held in Brownwood by the police department.

September 17-19, 2010 – For the 10th Brownwood Reunion Celebration the first Annual Brownwood Reunion Celebration Cake-Off was announced by Reunion organizers as a new competition.

September, 2011 – The first community-wide Annual Blanket Frontier Day was held.



7 ½ Inch Gauge Railroad

September 16, 2011 – The new seven-and-a-half-inch gauge mini railroad opens during the Brownwood Reunion. There were two live steam locomotives running during that Saturday, September 17th. Nick Edwards and Bob Hornsby of the Wimberley, Blanco and Southern Railroad, came up from Wimberley to fire up the locomotives and run them that Saturday.

October, 2011 - Brownwood and San Angelo chapters of the American Red Cross merged to make the new West Central Texas Chapter. This chapter encompasses thirteen counties with an office located in San Angelo and in Brownwood.

October 31, 2011 – First Annual Trick or Treat Trail presented by the Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce.



Don Morelock as Noah T. Byars

November 6, 2011 – The first Annual Tombstone Talking Tour at Greenleaf Cemetery on Sunday from 2:30-5:30pm. Visitors to the scenic Greenleaf Cemetery were guided to the grave sites of “former” residents, portrayed by actors in period costumes, who shared something of their lives and times.

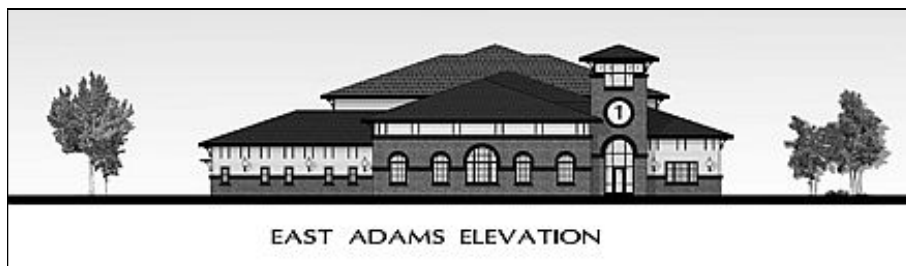
July 25, 2012 - Members of the Brownwood Downtown Lions Club and Early Lions Club announced that the two service clubs have merged into one club and will now be known as the Brownwood Early Lions Club.

November 30, 2012 – First Annual Brown County Museum of History Photo Show, presented by the Photo Group of the Brownwood Art Association, held in the Museum Annex.

December 27, 2012 - The Brownwood Country Club's shareholders approved the sale of the club to Stephen and Vicky Baker of Midland, who plan to keep the club open and make renovations.

March 26, 2013 - Council approved the termination of the lease and a bill of sale agreement for the purchase of the Red Cross building where the new Central Fire Station will be built. The City of Brownwood entered into a 50-year land lease agreement with the Red Cross in 1980, at its current location, 600 East Adams Street. The lease amount was \$1.00 per year and the Red Cross paid for the construction of the building.

2013 – The West Central Chapter of the American Red Cross moved into the Family Service Center as the City of Brownwood reclaimed the lease on the property the Red Cross was formerly located at 600 East Adams. The city demolished the building to make way for a new Central Fire Station. The American Red Cross West Central Texas Chapter serves Tom Green, Concho, Coke, Schleicher, Reagan, Irion, Sterling, Coleman, Brown, Comanche, San Saba, Mills, and McCullough counties.



New Central Fire Station Design

January 22, 2013 – Brownwood City Council approves conceptual design of the new fire station. The 14,400 square foot facility features sleeping quarters, a day room/dining and kitchen area, office spaces, a combination of emergency operations center/training room, upstairs storage and workout room, and five bays for fire vehicles.

Red Cross Building Demolished

April 17, 2013 - City workers tore down the old Red Cross building at 600 East Adams Street on Wednesday morning. (*Brownwood Bulletin*)



June, 2013 – Girl Scouts moved into the Family Service Center.



Brown County Rodeo

June 3, 2013 – The Brown County Rodeo celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The rodeo is put on by the Brown County Fair Association as a fund-raiser for the Brown County Youth Fair.

September 20 -22, 2013 – The 13th Annual Brownwood Reunion Celebration was held featuring live music, the BBQ Cook Off, Brownwood's Got Talent, Car Show, Midway, Kid Zone, Vendors, 2 Food Courts, 5K/10K Run, Magic Show and other events. The Grand Parade was held on Saturday morning as well as the Honor a Hero Parade. (Brownwood Chamber of Commerce)



Pioneer Days Festival in Early, Texas

October 18, 2013 – City of Early First Annual Pioneer Days Festival was to have kicked off Friday night with "Family Fun Around the Campfire." However, threat of rain moved it to Saturday afternoon. The event concluded with a Gospel Trio and Cowboy Church Service on Sunday morning. (Early Chamber of Commerce)

October 29, 2013 - The Brownwood Police Department received the award of “Recognized Law Enforcement Agency” from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Recognition Program.

December 5, 2013 - The 5th annual Christmas Under the Stars Festival that was scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 6th and 7th, has been canceled because of icy road conditions.

2014 – First Corks & Caps held at Santa Fe Depot.

March 1, 2014 - The Brownwood Municipal Police Association hosted the first Father and Daughter dance on March 1, 2014 at the Lehnis Train Museum.

March 9, 2014 - Lake Brownwood State Park opened their first mountain bike trail, the Nopales Ridge Trail, Saturday, March 8th, along with a grand opening celebration and 5K run/walk. According to officials at the park, the addition of the bike trail will enhance the park experience for all who visit.

March 25, 2014 – Brownwood-Early Lions Club votes to dissolve the club and sell the building. The Brownwood Lions club was organized in 1919 and merged with the Early Lions Club in July 2012. They only had seven members show up at their last meeting.

October 11, 2014- The Brownwood Area Community Garden and Keep Brownwood Beautiful are hosting Brownwood’s first every environmental fair on Saturday, October 11th at Riverside Park. (*Brownwood News.com*)

2015 - Dr. Robert and Mrs. Cheryl Mangrum have chosen to give back to the university they love by using proceeds from Dr. Mangrum’s recent history book to create an endowed scholarship in the couple’s name. Dr. Robert Mangrum published an account of HPU’s history titled *For Howard Payne My All: 125 Years of Christian Higher Education and Service, 1889-2015*. As the title suggests, the electronic book, encyclopedic in nature, chronicles the first 125 years of the university’s history since its founding in 1889.

September 18, 2015 – The First Annual Corks and Caps event was added to the “Feels Like Home.” Corks and Caps featured tastings of beer and wine from breweries and wineries from across the state of Texas. A cigar area was also a featured component during this event hosted by The Leaf from Abilene.

September 23, 2015 – Last “Feels Like Home” 15th weekend was held in Brownwood. During the “Feels Like Home” Celebration, volunteers helped with tasks such as manning barricades, help with parking, running shuttles, help in food court, and countless other tasks during the three-day event.

The “Feels Like Home Celebration” was held September 18, 19, and 20. The community-wide festival featured a variety of events, attractions, music, and food in addition to the main concerts on Saturday night.

2015 - Brown County’s ethnic composition is 72 percent white, 22 percent Hispanic, three percent black, and a little over two percent listed as ‘other,’ according to 2015 statistics.

2016 - Brownwood saw three big additions to the restaurant sector: Cotton Patch Cafe, Starbucks inside United Supermarket, and McAlister’s Deli. Mayor Haynes noted progressive growth for the city with new businesses opening over the past four years. The city of Brownwood saw new construction projects worth 21 million dollars in 2016.

February 17, 2016 - The Lions are returning to the Pecan Bayou on February 23, 2016 when twenty-two members, both men and women, celebrate the charter night of the newly formed Pecan Bayou Lions Club at the Early Chamber of Commerce, located at 104 E. Industrial Blvd., in Early, Texas at 6:00 p.m.

May 6, 2016 - The Arts Council of Brownwood hosted the 1st annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration in the streets of Historic Downtown Brownwood on Friday evening, May 6th with a large crowd in attendance. Organizers estimate more than 2500 people attended the festival. The big concert for the evening was presented by Revolution, a high school string group from Abilene with 20 members between the ages of 14 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lyric Theatre.

May 7, 2016 - Voters in Brownwood and Early overwhelmingly approved the conversion of each city’s economic development corporations to municipal development districts in elections held on May 7th. Each city will be working on the conversion over the next few months, and the new municipal development districts will take effect October 1st. This will allow more options for the expenditure of each city’s economic development funds.

May 24, 2016 - Terry A. Nichols has been appointed as the next City of Brownwood Police Chief. Nichols’ law enforcement experience spans more than 25 years in both municipal law enforcement and national program management. Nichols served the San Marcos Police Department for 21 years, retiring at the rank of Commander in 2010.

July 1, 2016 – (*Abilene Reporter-News*) First Annual Wild Duck Marina patriotic boat parade added to its Fourth of July fireworks show and music festival at Lake Brownwood.

September 17, 2016 – First Annual Lion’s Pride Gala, ISD Education Foundation. Lion’s Legacy Award presented to Mrs. Frances Stovall, long-time retired teacher, and the Brownwood Outstanding Alumni Award was presented to Mr. Paul Waldrop, BHS Class of 1969 graduate. Held at Tolson Game Ranch at Lake Brownwood’s Deepwater Estates. Music was by the Chubby Knuckle Choir.

November 12, 2016 - Local and Visiting Skaters Shred at first-ever Brownwood Skate Park Contest.

February 14, 2017 - The Lake Bridge Fire Department received a check from the Texas A&M Forest Service for the \$200,000 grant amount for the purchase of a new pumper-tanker truck that holds 1,000 gallons of water was presented to the department.

February 2017 – Weakley Watson Hardware Store sold to Tim Jacobs. The store remained on Austin Avenue in Brownwood. His son Weston and his wife Emily are the new managers of the store, now affiliated with Ace Hardware. Use to be a True Value hardware store managed by Mike Blagg.

February 15, 2017 – Eighteen residents from seven apartments are displaced by a fire at Camelot Apartments caused by an unattended grease fire.

March 2, 2017 - the Brownwood Art Association hosted a 90th Anniversary Gala event at the Art Center and featured a 1920's theme as a nod to their early years. The Gala was free and open to the public and honored past association presidents and artists of the year.

March 11, 2017 - 1st 2017 Vintners Dinner at Brownwood Country Club.

March 27, 2017 – First day for Eddy Wood to serve as the new Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator for Brownwood Fire Department. Wood's public safety and emergency management experience spans more than 25 years.



New Fire Chief Eddy Wood

April 3, 2017 – Eddy Wood was sworn in as new fire chief of the Brownwood Fire Department at the Central Fire Station.

May 12, 2017 – Hendrick Surgery Center associated with Abilene's Hendrick Health System opens in Brownwood, and offering space for surgeons from Brownwood and other communities.

November 6, 2017 – Voters reject Ranger College tax annexation plan just over 97 percent of the 6,081 votes cast. Ranger College and said it would levy a property tax rate of 11 cents per \$100 evaluation, which would enable the college to expand into Brownwood.

September 29, 2017 – A coalition of sheriff's offices including Brown County collected material and money for first responders and volunteers working in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. Coalition members visited Aransas County through October 1 to provide hot grilled meals.

October 10, 2017 - Museum curator Crystal Stanley took over for Beverly Norris at the Martin & Frances Lehnis Train Museum.

November 28, 2017 – Early McDonald Park dedicated, former home of Early High School football team.

December 31, 2017 – *Brownwood Bulletin* - Brownwood and Early communities continued to face challenges in the closing of many long term businesses during 2017 including Hastings, JC Penney, Payless Shoe Source, Staples, Sprint, RadioShack, Mi Famillia and rue 21. Harbor Freight opened a store in the former Staples location in Brownwood’s Commerce Square.

December, 2018 – The Pecan Valley Lions Club has quit meeting and has disbanded.

January 18, 2018 – *Brownwood News.com* -Braving the cold, several leaders in the Brownwood community gathered to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for Hendrick Health System’s new medical office building at 10 a.m. on January 18th. Hendrick Medical Plaza will be located adjacent to Hendrick Surgery Center.



February 2, 2018 - After a special-called Brownwood ISD Board of Trustees meeting held on Thursday, Feb. 22nd at 12:15 p.m., board members elected Coach Sammy Burnett as the new Athletic Director and Head Football Coach. Burnett is the first Brownwood High School Graduate to lead the Lions in the modern era.



March 2, 2018 – Kroger’s Food Store closes after serving Brownwood for 40 years. Over \$6,000 worth of food was donated to Good Samaritan Ministries’ food bank through the annual “Souper Bowl of Caring” event prior to closing the store.

May 8, 2018 – Left to right, Ward 4 Councilman Draco Miller, Ward 1 Councilman H.D. Jones and Mayor Stephen Haynes were reelected for another term. They are shown here taking the oath of office.



May 20, 2018 - Four monuments destroyed at Central Texas Veterans Memorial, probably by high winds clocked at 68 mph.

June 24, 2018 – (*Brownwood News.com*) The Brownwood High School Concert Band competed in April at the UIL Region 7 Concert & Sight Reading Contest and earned a first-division rating from all the judges. This marked the 13th consecutive sweepstakes award for the BHS Band. The Brownwood Lion Concert Band made BHS history by becoming the TMEA Area “A” Honor Band Champions and advancing to the TMEA State Honor Band Contest at the end of July during the annual Texas Bandmasters meeting and convention.

June 29, 2018 – (*BrownwoodNews.com*) Installations crew began the five-month expansion project for Harris Broadband to provide high speed internet service to Early.

July 2, 2018 – Hobby Lobby officially opens in Heartland Mall in Early.

March 28, 2019 – First Annual Professional Women’s Summit held in the Santa Fe Depot.

April 1, 2019 - Dr. Cory Hines installed as President of Howard Payne University, the 20th in HPU’s 130-year history.

June 25, 2019 - Brownwood Fire Chief, Eddy Wood, has accepted the Division Chief position with the City of Saginaw Fire Department. Last day with city is July 17, 2019.



Fire Chief Eddy Wood

June 28, 2019 – Escape Room opens at 201 East Adams, Suite B. An Escape Room is a mental and physical adventure-based game in which players solve a series of puzzles and riddles using clues, hints and strategy to try to escape the room within 60 minutes.



July 9, 2019 - Police Chief, Ed Kading, was sworn-in to office.

August 5, 2019 – *Brownwood Bulletin* – Started this week, the Bulletin print edition was no longer being built in Brownwood. The Center for News and Design in Austin took over the responsibility, which will also result in earlier deadlines for items to be included in the newspaper. Also the *Bulletin* would be printed in Lubbock.

August 29, 2019 – Brownwood Regional Medical Center celebrates its 50th Anniversary serving Brownwood and the surrounding area.

September 19, 2019 - Dr. Cory Hines formally inaugurated as 20th president of Howard Payne University. Dr. Hines, a 1997 graduate of HPU, was named president at a special meeting of the university's Board of Trustees on March 18, 2019. His first official day in office was April 1.

September 30, 2019 - DaVita Brownwood Dialysis closed after they withdrew its participation in the Medicare program.

December 7, 2019 - The Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce announces “Sipping Under the Stars,” the Inaugural wine and beer tasting event connected with the long-standing Brownwood holiday tradition, Christmas Under the Stars.

January 25, 2020 - A final sale event was held Saturday in Frames and Things as Robert Pritchard retired.

March 18, 2020 -The very first case of Coronavirus Disease in Brown County was reported.

May 1, 2020 - Cinco de Mayo 2020 CANCELLED
Unfortunately, because of the current COVID-19 crisis, the Brownwood Cinco de Mayo Celebration scheduled for Friday, May 1 has been cancelled.

May 15, 2020 - Brownwood News – Saturday morning at Lake Brownwood, numerous home and dock owners were checking their property for damage after severe storms brought high wind on Friday night, May 15. The hardest hit area was Wild Duck Marina where the Kirkland Docks was destroyed as shown in the photo.



May 20, 2020 -
Brownwood News – Demolition began late Wednesday afternoon, May 20, at the site of a longtime Brownwood Restaurant. Skillet's, 500 East Commerce, is being demolished to make room for a freestanding Chick-fil-A Restaurant. Skillet's family style café served the people of Central Texas for over 30 years.

Brownwood News Photo – Demo of Skillet's as of Thursday morning, May 21, 2020.

October 26, 2020 – Brownwood News - Hendrick Health is pleased to announce the finalization of purchase of Abilene Regional Medical Center and Brownwood Regional Medical Center. The newly acquired campuses will change to Hendrick Medical Center South, formerly Abilene Regional Medical Center, and Hendrick Medical Center Brownwood, formerly Brownwood Regional Medical Center.

December 23, 2020 - Hendrick Medical Center Brownwood receives its allocation of 600 Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

February 15-20, 2021 – Winter Storm Viola hits Brownwood, the third storm of the season. Brown County Water Improvement District announced there was not a water shortage in Brownwood.

April 9, 2021 – Dallas Huston announces retirement from broadcasting after 58 years as the voice of the Brownwood Lions and 57 years as voice of the Howard Payne Yellow Jackets.

April 14, 2021 - Heritage Funeral Homes owner Dr. James Mercer, purchased Davis-Morris Funeral Home in Brownwood. The facility will now be known as Heritage Funeral Home Davis-Morris Chapel.

May 10, 2021 - Melody Nowowiejski sworn in as the new Ward 3 City council member.

June 8, 2021 – Roland Soto appointed as new Director of Parks and Recreation and Community Facilities. Marshal McIntosh was appointed as Deputy City Manager and Jon Ochoa was named as the Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

July 21, 2021 - Harris Broadband was purchased by Grande Communications.

August 1, 2021 – Shaw’s Marketplace at 508 N. Center held its grand opening with 20 local vendors.



October 6, 2021 – Brownwood Historic Texas Hotel LLC completes its purchase of the old Brownwood Hotel at Fisk and Baker.

November 15, 2021 – Underwood’s Cafeteria celebrates 75 years in business.

November 25, 2021 – 37th annual Community Thanksgiving Feast was held at Howard Payne University.

December 31, 2021 – Brownwood Rotary Club disbands after 100 years of service to the community for lack of members.

January 27, 2022 – City implemented a new CivicReady Mass Notification System to help warn citizens of any emergencies affecting the area.

February 2022 - Brown County Retired Teachers made a local name change to better reflect the members they represent. They are now called Brown County Retired School Employees.

March 18, 2022 – Keep Brownwood Beautiful to build a stone labyrinth next to Austin Avenue overpass to be sponsored by Ann Jones Real Estate.



April 5, 2022 - Groundbreaking was held for the soon to be new Brownwood Event Center.
Brownwoodnews.com

May 6, 2022 – Cinco de Mayo celebration was once again held in downtown Brownwood on Center Street with large crowds on a hot night.

June 5, 2022 – First edition of the Brownwood Bulletin published by CherryRoad Media, Volume 122 No. 98, Sunday's paper.

June 13, 2022 - Common Grounds Coffeehouse opened at its new facility at 809 Main, in the former Brownwood Central Fire Station.

September 3, 2022 – The Lehnis Transportation Museum celebrate its 15th Anniversary.

October 25, 2022 - Paul Waldrop, Jr. was honored by the Boy Scouts of America. The Texas Trails Council, BSA, presented Waldrop with the 2022 Distinguished Citizen Award at a banquet held in the Coggin Connection Center of the Coggin Avenue Baptist Church.

January 24, 2023 – The Woman's Club of Brownwood celebrated their 50th Anniversary.