

**Walks through History**  
**Historic Downtown Prairie Grove**  
**Begin in front of Arvest Bank at the NE corner of Buchanan & Mock**  
**December 15, 2012**  
**By: Rachel Silva**



**Intro**

Hi, my name is Rachel Silva, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, which is 1 of 7 agencies in the Department of Arkansas Heritage. We work to register and preserve the state's historic and cultural resources; our most well-known program is the National Register of Historic Places, which we maintain for the state of Arkansas. Welcome to the "Walks through History" tour of downtown Prairie Grove!

I'd like to thank a few people for their help with the tour—

Maylon Rice  
Paula Ditmars  
Natalie Bartholomew  
Susan Parks-Spencer  
Buddy Lyle  
Jim Rieff

Lynn Cutter

Larry & Karen Crawley

Marcus Nall & Todd Wile

Jim & Sharon Glover

And last but not least, the PG Chamber of Commerce, for co-sponsoring the tour.

### **Brief History of Prairie Grove**

Prairie Grove is probably best known for the Civil War battle that took place here on December 7, 1862, which resulted in a Union victory and secured Federal control over northwest Arkansas and Missouri for the remainder of the war. For more info on the Battle of Prairie Grove, please visit PG Battlefield Historic State Park. [US Brig. Gen. James G. Blunt vs. CS Maj. Gen. Thomas C. Hindman. Tactically a draw, but the Confederates retreated at night, giving the Union a decisive victory.]

Washington County was created by Arkansas's territorial legislature on October 17, 1828, from the easternmost part of Lovely County, which had formally been established the previous year and most of which was actually in modern-day Oklahoma. Washington County was named in honor of George Washington, the first president of the United States.

One of Prairie Grove's earliest white settlers, Rev. Andrew "Uncle Buck" Buchanan, came from Kentucky to northwest Arkansas in 1829. Buchanan arrived at the natural spring located in present-day Mock Park and wanted to settle there, but the spring and surrounding land were already claimed by Tom Wagon. However, because Buchanan was a preacher, Mr. Wagon was willing trade with him. Wagon would search for another good piece of property and allow Buchanan to take the land around the spring if Buchanan would come out and preach two sermons at his new place. Buchanan built a home near the spring, and a church and school soon opened. Rev. Buchanan died in 1857 and left property to his widow, two servants, and the Cane Hill College. Buchanan's stepson, Col.

James Preston Neal, returned to the area in 1871 and settled on part of the old Buchanan property. A few years later, Col. Neal decided to survey and plat the land into lots and blocks.

The name “Prairie Grove” was chosen because the town was set on a prairie surrounded by rolling hills, and the spring was surrounded by a grove of trees. [Prairie Grove was previously known by 2 other names—the first post office (1840-1846) was called Sweet Home and was run by postmaster James C. Pittman, and in 1857 a second post office was established and called Ada, after one of Archibald Borden’s daughters.] Prairie Grove was surveyed and platted in 1877 and incorporated on July 9, 1888. By 1890, Prairie Grove had a population of 412 (or as many as 500, depending on the source) as well as 4 general stores, a furniture store, harness & saddle shop, 2 drug stores, a jewelry store, marble works, hardware store, lumber company, a flour mill (Prairie Grove Mill), a canning and evaporating company (PG Canning & Evaporating Co.), and a music store.

In 1901 the Ozark & Cherokee Central Railroad came through Prairie Grove, providing a way to ship fruits, vegetables, grain, timber, and livestock out of the Illinois River Valley. The Ozark & Cherokee Central hooked onto the St. Louis-San Francisco (Frisco) Railway at Fayetteville and extended southwesterly through Farmington, Prairie Grove, Lincoln, Summers and into Oklahoma, where it passed through Westville, Talequah, Muskogee, and terminated at Okmulgee. It followed the present-day route of Hwy. 62. In 1907 the O & CC was purchased by the Frisco Railroad. The Prairie Grove Depot was constructed about 1901 on the north side of the railroad tracks at the corner of S. Neal and Commercial streets. The wood-frame depot contained a waiting room, baggage room, Western Union Telegraph office, and Wells Fargo & Co. Express office. The depot was a popular gathering place, especially to watch the train come in at 3:00 p.m. on Sundays. In addition to shipping freight, the railroad provided passenger service. In July 1942 the Frisco Railway announced that the branch line through Prairie Grove would close. Almost immediately, the rails were taken up and sold for scrap (WWII), and the depot was demolished.

The canning of fruits and vegetables, namely tomatoes, beans, and strawberries, was a major industry in Prairie Grove for many years. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Prairie Grove had at least 2 canning factories—the Arkansaw Canning Company (which was listed as “idle” on the 1913 Sanborn map) and the Prairie Grove Preserves Company Canning Factory. And smaller canning operations existed in communities all around Prairie Grove. In 1953 the PG Preserves Canning Co. became the Kelly Canning Company, which operated on S. Mock until 1978 (when it went out of business because of the rising costs of shipping in tomatoes). You can still see the foundation for the old canning factory on the west side of S. Mock. In addition to the canning business, a lot of apples were processed in Prairie Grove at the Ozark Cider & Vinegar Company (same building as the Arkansaw Canning Company, PG Vinegar & Preserving Co., and O. L. Gregory Co.??), which was located about 1 mile southeast of the intersection of Mock & Buchanan.

I mentioned earlier that grain was another major commodity in the region. Throughout its history, Prairie Grove has had 3 large flour mills, only one of which exists today. The first mill, constructed about 1876 by McPhetridge, Baggett, and Rogers near the southwest corner of Mock & Buchanan—behind the McCoy Produce Building, was in regular use until about 1905. It was dismantled in 1914, and at that time, it was the oldest commercial structure in PG. The wood-frame mill was 4 stories tall and had a gabled roof. The lumber was salvaged and possibly used to construct part of the Washington Co. Milling Company on S. Mock in 1919.

The L. C. McCormick Mill & Elevator Company was built in 1902 next to the railroad tracks near the end of S. Pittman Street. In its early days, the McCormick Mill produced 2.4 million pounds of flour and shipped 60,000 bushels of wheat from the elevators each year. In 1913 the mill’s name was changed to the Prairie Grove Milling Company. It closed in 1941, and the building is no longer extant.

Finally, the Washington Co. Milling Company, which is still standing on S. Mock Street, was built in 1919. You will have the option to walk or drive down S. Mock

Street to the mill building at the end of the tour (you will also see the old canning factory site and the old railroad right-of-way—with 1914 concrete railroad culvert—either a later update to the railroad or from a spur track?).

Although cotton was not farmed on a large scale in northwest Arkansas, PG had a cotton gin. It was built in 1925 across from the PG Milling Co. on Pittman. In its first year, it processed 314 bales of cotton and paid out \$36,000 to growers.

For those of you who are not from here, I'll tell you that PG is best known today for its state park and the annual Clothesline Fair held there each Labor Day weekend (celebrated its 61<sup>st</sup> year in 2012; started in 1951).

### **Masonic Lodge & 116 N. Mock**

The cornerstone for the B. H. Harrison Masonic Temple was laid at 3:00 p.m. on July 8, 1903. One cornerstone is inscribed with the year "1903," and the other reads "Erected and Donated to Occidental Lodge No. 436 F & AM, by B. H. Harrison. Anno Domini MDCCCIII, Anno Lucis VDCCCIII, Esto Perpetua (Latin for "Let it be perpetual"). The Masons (and Order of the Eastern Star and Rainbow Girls) met upstairs in the lodge hall, and the first floor was rented out to different businesses. When the building was completed, the Wilson & McMillan Mercantile was on the first floor. About 1910 it became The Cash Store (general merchandise and grocery), owned by Clint Carl and in 1919 sold to Tom Bell. [I read that in 1913 the Lyric Theater opened in the first floor of the Masonic Building. In 1925 it was renamed the Cozy Theater. I'm not sure how this jives with the other businesses here...] In 1922 then-owners Ed Rich and Will Adams traded the Cash Grocery & Market to Jess Gibson for a 30-acre fruit and berry farm at Bethel Grove. Charley Gibson was the new proprietor. The first floor probably housed a variety of occupants over the years, but it was the *Prairie Grove Enterprise* office from 1943 until at least the mid-90s (when did it move out?).

The Masonic Building and the building next to it at 116 N. Mock have matching pressed metal facades manufactured by Mesker Bros. Iron Works of St. Louis.

Mesker Storefronts: From the late 1880s into the early 20th century, pre-manufactured building components became popular across the U.S. Buyers could order parts from a catalogue and receive their goods by train. The prefabricated building parts were especially popular in small towns, where it might be difficult to find an architect. There were several companies in the Midwest manufacturing these cast-iron building components, but the two largest manufacturers were Mesker Brothers Iron Works of St. Louis and the George L. Mesker Co. of Evansville, Indiana. The companies were owned by brothers and competed against each other. Mesker components typically have a nameplate at the base of a storefront column. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency has a project called "Got Mesker" that identifies and documents Mesker buildings across the country, and PG has 2 identifiable Meskers.

Both buildings feature a pattern with seashells, dolphins, garlands, and engaged columns with Corinthian capitals. The Masonic Building originally had 2 finials at either end of the parapet, and a raised, pointed metal parapet that said "B. H. Harrison Masonic Temple." 116 N. Mock also had finials and two rectangular name plates, but they are illegible in historic photos.

116 N. Mock was built in 1904 by B. F. Carl, great-grandfather of local dentists John and Andrew Bain. The building started off as part of the Ozark Mercantile Company and sold furniture and caskets. The Dixon Saddlery rented the back part of the building and sold saddles and harnesses. They later installed double doors on the back so that buggies and Model T Fords could be brought inside the building for the repairing and making of new canvas tops. The Dixon Saddlery moved to the north side of Buchanan Street in 1950, and this building was used as overflow storage for the Southern Mercantile at the southeast corner of Mock & Buchanan. In the 60s, it became a home decorating center, complete with paint and wallpaper. The building was sold in the late 1980s after the death of owner Florence Hill. It was purchased in the late 90s by current owners Jim & Sharon Glover, who operated an antique store here for 12 years (closed it in Aug. 2011). Prior to 1938, the Southern Funeral Home was located upstairs in this building.

At some point in the recent past, a car crashed into the storefront of the Masonic Building, and the storefront had to be replaced. However, 116 N. Mock retains its original cast-iron storefront columns, recessed doors, transom windows, and wooden bulkheads.

About 1920, there was a 1-story building constructed on the north side of 116 N. Mock. It housed a laundry. You can see where the roofline was—the site is now Andy Bain's parking lot.

### **South side of Buchanan St., going east from Mock**

Southern Mercantile Company (NR-listed 6/14/1990)—In 1883 early PG businessmen J. J. Baggett and A. Sanders partnered to build the present structure and ran it as a hardware store called Baggett & Sanders. The store's name changed in 1891 to Baggett & McCormick, after Baggett dissolved his first partnership and joined with A. N. McCormick. By 1903 the name had changed to the Ozark Mercantile Company. Baggett was involved in a variety of financial and commercial endeavors in Fayetteville, and in 1907 he had accumulated enough money to buy out his local competition, the mercantile owned by brothers S. R. and Frank Wilson. At that time, Baggett renamed his business once again, calling it the Southern Mercantile Company.

The store's motto was "From the cradle to the grave," and patrons could literally get anything they wanted at the Southern, including burial insurance and a casket. The western side (right) of the building housed the dry goods department (finished clothing, bolts of cloth, boots & shoes, etc.), and the east side (left) housed the hardware department. A separate building to the east of the original mercantile was acquired in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and housed the grocery department (interior door connects the buildings). The Southern carried a wide variety of merchandise over the years, including hardware, dry goods, groceries, buggies and buggy parts, farm machinery, feed, seed, furniture, caskets, electrical supplies, and household appliances. The store even offered a radio repair service, Funeral Home, ambulance service, and sold burial insurance.

As modes of transportation improved, more people drove into Fayetteville to buy their merchandise, hurting the Southern's business. The dry goods department closed in 1948, followed by the grocery department in 1958. The hardware department expanded into the former dry goods section and continued to be open until the death of owner Miss Florence Hill in 1987. At the time of her death, Florence Hill had worked and/or managed the Southern for about 60 years. Since that time, the main part of the Southern has been an antique store, and the old grocery part has been The Flower Shop.

A note about the façade—it was originally a brick façade with a pressed metal cornice and later had three panels reading “Ozark Mercantile Company”. The smaller building to the east (that is now incorporated into the façade) had an entire upper façade of pressed metal, and you can still see some of it below the stucco. Stucco façade added ca. 1920. Notice that building retains its original cast-iron storefront columns, recessed doors, and wooden bulkheads. The cast-iron thresholds are stamped “Crescent Iron Works Springfield MO.”

Mustard & purple building to east of Flower Shop—constructed ca. 1910. Has nice brick corbelling at the cornice and covered transom windows. In 1913 it housed a dry goods, boots & shoes, and clothing store. By the early 1950s, it was a grocery store run by Mr. & Mrs. Ken Marvin. In 1954 it was purchased by Ernest Baugh, who in turn sold to Guy Sparks and Ronnie Stone, who established an IGA Grocery there. In 1973 the IGA was purchased by Kenny Bartholomew, who moved the business down the block and ran it as the B & K Market. In 1975 Charles Stills moved the Charles Cleaners to this building from a previous building on the north side of the street. In 1986 Bobby Moore bought the cleaners and then sold to Doris Kennedy of Dodge City, KS, who in 1987 sold to her sister and brother-in-law, Rose and John Lancos (also from Dodge City). Then it was the PG Cleaners.

Jack's Barber Shop—There was a barber shop & dry cleaners here by 1913, and I think this is the same building but with a 1950s-60s Roman brick façade. This was home to Ben Wilson's barber shop, and in 1950 it was sold to Jack McClelland. Jack worked here as a barber until 1966, when he sold to his son, Eddie.



115 E. Buchanan (gray)—Built ca. 1910 and home to R. P. Edmiston Hardware and Grocery. In the early 1970s, Carman Drug moved to this location, and then in 1982 it was purchased by Peggy & Don Woolsey, who operated it as Valley Drug.

PG Auto Parts—built ca. 1918 and originally had 2 storefronts. In the 50s, Mr. & Mrs. Norris Dunn moved their dry cleaning business into the western (right) storefront of this building, and the eastern half was occupied by the City Café, run by Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Wadley. In 1960 Frank West purchased the building and moved the Farmers Hardware Store to this location (from the NW corner of Mock & Buchanan). He had the building remodeled and made into one large store. It was purchased by Larry & Karen Crawley in 1985, and they have operated the auto supply store for almost 30 years.

Green “1915” Building—PG’s first bank was organized in 1901 and was called the Bank of Prairie Grove. Later that year, the bank constructed a 2-story building with a pressed metal cornice and peaked parapet reading “1901 Bank” on this site. In 1905 the Bank of PG was sold to the newly organized First National Bank. First National remained in the 2-story building here until 1914, when it was destroyed by fire. A new commercial building was constructed in 1915 (see parapet). In the 1930s, it was the Blue Moon Café. It was later occupied by Neal’s Dry Goods. S. H. “Dood” Neal worked in the Southern Mercantile dry goods and grocery departments for about 15 years, and when the dry goods dept. closed in 1948, he opened his own dry goods store.

Sterling Drug--In 1915 C. L. Cummings bought the lot and built the present structure. It housed the McNeal Drug Company. In 1918 two local drug stores, McNeal Drug and Palace Drug, consolidated to form Sterling Drug. Sterling Drug occupied the former McNeal location. In 1955 Sterling Drug was purchased by Vincil Bell and Clarence Davis. In 1971 Vincil Bell and his son, Larry, assumed ownership of the Lincoln branch and named it Bell Pharmacy. Clarence Davis’s son, Gary Davis, partnered with him in 1971, and they assumed full ownership of Sterling Drug in PG.

Crescent Dept. Store—In 1928 Guy Skelton, Bob McCoy, and J. A. Skelton bought the Crescent Dept. Store and moved it to its present location. In 1929 Nathan Brooks joined the Crescent as a partner. Both Guy Skelton and Nathan Brooks had previously worked in the dry goods dept. at the Southern. The Crescent's slogan was "See Nathan and Guy before you buy." The Crescent sold ready-to-wear (jeans, overalls, dress pants, blouses, shirts) for men, women, and children, shoes, household linens, and fabrics. Guy Skelton's sons, Elton and Donnie, later managed the Crescent. Bill Ramsey bought the Crescent in the early 1970s and sold it in 1985 to Mr. & Mrs. Jim Reese. It is currently owned and operated by Travis & Shannon Stearman.

Next buildings constructed ca. 1930.

Entrance to Daisies & Olives (western portion of building)—Beginning in 1936, this was Carman Drug, run by L. A. and Ruetta Carman.

Beverly Theater (eastern portion of building)—The Beverly Theater opened in May 1934 and was operated by James Fay Parks, his twin brothers, Donald and Barry Parks, Taylor Hannah, and Arthur McCormick. James Parks had previously been a member of the Beverly Players, a group of young people who produced plays under the direction of playwright Clay Mobley, thus the name of the theater. When he moved to Chicago in 1935, James Parks turned the theater's management over to his brother, Donald, who was only 16 years old at the time. By 1941 the theater had cushioned leather seats and new cooling and sound systems. The front of the theater had a marquee and a ticket booth. Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Jones purchased the theater in 1952 and operated it until it closed on October 15, 1959.

In 1973 Kenny Bartholomew purchased the IGA Grocery and moved it into both storefronts. He called it the B & K Market (maybe after Bill and Kenney, the two sons of Jack Bartholomew). Because the B & K was coming in to this location, Carman Drug moved down to the Valley Drug Building.

In 1977 Sam Escue bought Farmers Hardware and moved it into the former B & K building (and later took in the building to the east as well).

Recessed building (east part of Daisies & Olives)—built ca. 1920 by C. Arthur McCormick, who operated the Prairie Grove Motor Company here until 1947, when he sold to Jimmy Smith. McCormick sold Ford cars and had a Texaco service station. Jimmy Smith and his father, J. A. Smith, established the Smith Tractor & Implement Co. in this location. They sold the business in 1951, but in 1957 Jimmy Smith and Robert Earl Cunningham bought it back. They ran it as Smith-Cunningham Tractor & Implement Co. until 1965, when Smith sold the building to Jack Bartholomew.

By the early 1970s, this was the Burger Quick, a popular hamburger joint run by Marie Foren.

City Hall—built ca. 1930 as a Magnolia filling station and garage. It has been rebricked. By 1941, it was owned by J. A. and Jimmy Smith, who did auto repair, welding, and blacksmithing there. Vernon Holland built stock race cars for Carl Kelley in this building. A car built by Mr. Holland and driven by Mr. Kelley won first place at the Nationals at Green Valley Raceway in 1967.

Point to Joy Webb Clubhouse at NE corner of Buchanan & Neal—Joy Nelson Webb was a local historian, publisher of the *Prairie Grove Herald*, and reporter for the *Prairie Grove Enterprise*, among other things. When she died in 1974, she donated her house to the PG Woman's Club to be used as a meeting place, research library, and antique museum. Files of her newspaper clippings and photos are kept in the house, which is open to the public (by appt.).

Luginbuel Funeral Home—Lloyd Luginbuel began operating a funeral home in Lincoln in 1924 and opened one in PG in 1937. Initially, Luginbuel's was located in the old F. H. Carl House, which was located on the north side of Buchanan just east of the commercial buildings (sat about where the Parker & Zega Attorneys' office is now). Luginbuel's offered an ambulance service, which remained in operation for many, many years (well into the 1970s). Luginbuel's bought the Southern Funeral Home in 1942 and combined it with their PG business. The same year, Luginbuel's purchased the old Marrs Hotel (built ca. 1900; was the Hotel Main in 1924) on Neal Street and remodeled it for a funeral home with

apartments upstairs. The building was later enlarged to include a chapel, waiting room, offices, viewing rooms, etc. The funeral home is now run by Loyd Luginbuel's son, Loyd Wayne Luginbuel, and Loyd Wayne's son, Stacey Luginbuel.

Old post office—built 1963. Current post office is west of downtown on Hwy. 62.

Dillon's—Dillon's Food Market was constructed on the southwest corner of Buchanan & Pittman in 1966 and was originally smaller and sat closer to Buchanan than it does today. In 1988 the supermarket built a new 21,000 square foot building behind their 1966 store. The earlier store was razed and the space used for additional parking.

Chamber of Commerce—in the 1930s, this building was Dr. Webb's dentist office (husband of Joy Webb). It was deeded to the City and later housed a fabric store, donut shop (called the Sugar Tree and run by Bill Shafer), and now the Chamber.

**Cross Buchanan and walk on south side of street back toward stoplight.**

Mock Park—the site of the original PG spring, around which the town developed. The spring is still there, surrounded by stepped concrete and a wooden fence. It was originally a big water hole surrounded by large rocks, where people sat. In 1963 Dr. Will H. Mock, veteran local physician and civic leader, donated this land to the City of PG for use as a public park. Mock purchased the land in 1901, removed all the old buildings, hauled in wagonloads of soil to level the land, and planted trees. For many years, PG obtained its water from the spring.

Dr. Mock's old house sat less than a ½ block from here on Neal Street across from Luginbuel's. It was demolished in the last 10 years.

Point out on S. Neal—

PG Waterworks—Built ca. 1930 and housed the water office, pump house, and fire department. A water tank was constructed directly to the west of the waterworks building and held water from Mock Spring, and later from Ruby

Spring (piped in from Bethel Grove beginning in 1955). In 1968 a dam was constructed on Muddy Fork south of town to form Prairie Grove Lake, which became the city's water supply. In 1980 the Dept. of Health required the spring water to be excluded from the system. In 1983 the City Council voted to remove the old water tank. Services Enterprise Corporation of Evansville, Indiana, was awarded the contract, and on Sunday, July 24, 1983, the operation began. The easternmost legs were severed, along with the standpipe, while the westernmost legs were notched, so the tower would theoretically fall to the west in the parking lot. However, it changed directions and fell on top of the commercial buildings, causing damage to Farmers True Value Hardware, the Crescent Dept. Store, and Sterling Drug.

American Legion Hut—The Legion Hut was built in 1934 by the WPA. An addition was built in 1973-74 to provide an area for skating, dancing, and other civic activities. It was named the Mason-Nation Post after James Edward Mason, first PG man killed during WWI, and Morris Edward Nations, who died in Dec. 1941 from injuries sustained at Pearl Harbor.

PG Public Library was started in 1935 in a room in the Legion Hut. In 1945 the library moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> story of the Farmers and Merchants Bank at the NE corner of Mock & Buchanan. In 1954 it moved to the back of the City Waterworks building on Neal St. In 1966 architect and U of A faculty member Cyrus P. Sutherland designed a library building on the east side of Neal Street. It was enlarged to its current size about 1996.

### **North side of Buchanan, going west from Neal**

Arvest Drive-thru—This corner lot and the lot to the west (Bob Gladwin's old office) were occupied by homes in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Carl House to the west was the first location of Luginbuel's in PG. After the house on the corner lot was demolished (sometime after 1948), Burl & Ena Horton ran a Texaco station here.

Carl House—Luginbuel's

Valerie's Salon & drive-thru lot—built ca. 1935. A small building to the east of Valerie's housed The Eat Shop (a café) from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century until the 1970s?? The Eat Shop was run by Rube Epperson. There was a sign above the grill that read, "Do you want it right quick or real good?"

Small white building—built ca. 1930. The PG Electric Company was formed in 1915 to provide power to the town. It was sold in 1925 to the Southwest Power Company of Muskogee, OK. In 1928 the company was again sold to Southwestern Gas & Electric Company of Shreveport, LA, which would later become SWEPCO (Southwestern Electric Power Co.). Both Southwestern Gas & Electric and SWEPCO occupied this building as an office.

"The Locals" Craft and Flea Market (GRAY STUCCO)—this was the Mock Clinic, built about 1920 by Dr. Will Hugh Mock, and originally had a full front porch supported by 5 columns. Dr. Mock operated a 30-bed hospital here, where he treated all types of illnesses and performed surgical procedures. There were three doctors and a dentist in the Mock Clinic at one time. In addition to Dr. Mock, Dr. Jeff Baggett had his office here. Ida Layman was a nurse in the Mock Clinic, and Dr. Boyce was a physician there in the 1960s.

Summit Hill Cottage (MAIN ENTRANCE w/ GREEN AWNING)—this encompasses a ca. 1920 building and a ca. 1935 building with 2 storefronts (3 businesses). I think that Horah's Meat Market, run by George Horah and his son, Ed, may have been in here somewhere. In the 1930s, the Horah's changed the name to City Grocery & Market. May have also been T. B. Ward Optometry, a café, and J & B Auto (run by Jack Meadors; moved down here after its building east of the F & M Bank was damaged by fire in 1958; Murph Pair joined him as a mechanic in 1973). What else was here?

Mock Building—built ca. 1912 by Dr. Will H. Mock. Had 3 storefronts. 1913 Sanborn—east to west—office, barber, jewelry/restaurant. 1924 Sanborn—store, barber, post office. 1948 Sanborn—restaurant, store, post office. Earl's Café may

have been in the westernmost portion of the Mock Building in the late 40s or 50s??

Citizen's Bank—built 1912. "Citizen's Bank" written in concrete panel on façade. About 1915, First National Bank purchased Citizen's Bank and moved into this building. First National put up a metal sign over the concrete panel with their name on it. In 1929 First National consolidated with Farmer's State Bank, which was located on the corner, and the name changed to Farmers & Merchants Bank. This building later housed Clark's Jewelry and then in 1957, a flower shop run by Charles & Colleen Knowles. Flower shop changed hands a few times beginning in the mid-70s, and in 1986 it was purchased by Neta Ray Faddis, who changed the name to Flowers 'n Friends and moved the business to its current location next door.

Flowers 'n Friends—built ca. 1907 after a fire in 1906 destroyed almost the entire north side of the block. Was a meat market by 1913. In the mid-30s, Charley & Al Mobley opened a dry cleaners in this building. They sold to Tilford Cosby in the 40s, and it became Cosby Cleaners. In 1958 Charles Stills bought Dunn Cleaners (south side of street) as well as Cosby Cleaners. He used the Cosby Cleaners location and called it Charles Cleaners (in 1975 moved back to south side of street where PG Cleaners was). 1986—became Flowers 'n Friends.

Arvest Bank—EASTERNMOST PART OF ARVEST WITH ORIGINAL RED BRICK FAÇADE—the site occupied by this building and another storefront to the west was historically the Opera House. The PG Opera House was built ca. 1906 and had a pressed metal front similar to the old Masonic Building and 116 N. Mock. The opera house was upstairs and a grocery and drug store were downstairs. Opera house had a stage for live performances as well as a projector for movies. It was destroyed by fire in 1925?

After the fire, a new red brick commercial building with 5 storefronts was constructed. Each storefront looked like this portion of Arvest with multi-pane transom windows and a cast-concrete panel in the upper façade. This portion of the building may have housed Harlan's 5 & 10. Other businesses in this row were

Earl's Café, Dixon Saddlery & Harness (by 1950), Fairway Grocery, J & B Auto (late 50s before 58 fire), Pyeatt-Ryan Butane Service Co., a pool hall, a cold storage locker plant, and Farmers & Merchants Bank. The Farmers & Merchants Bank was built in 1904? and housed the Farmer's State Bank before its consolidation with First National in 1929. Dr. Calvin Bain's dentist office was upstairs, along with Ed Rich Real Estate and a beauty shop. A fire in 1958 damaged the bank building. Bank President Delford Rieff said that only temporary repairs would be made because the bank was about to remodel and enlarge by taking in more buildings to the east (beginning of bank expansion). Drs. John and Andrew Bain had dental offices upstairs after their father. They later built new offices—Andy on N. Mock and John in Farmington.

## **W. Buchanan**

### **McCoy Produce Building**

The oldest remaining commercial building in PG. Constructed in the early 1880s (1886? But maybe earlier. This doesn't make sense with the Southern in 1883...) as a dry goods store. B. A. Carl opened a dry goods store here in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Carl Store later moved across the street and operated for many years. About 1900 McCoy Produce opened in this building, run by R. L. McCoy, who was later joined by his son, Layton McCoy. It was originally a 2-story building!! The second story was removed in 1937. In 1958 Layton McCoy remodeled the building (added stucco at that time?) and opened a Laundromat. McCoy Produce continued to operate out of the southern side of the building. Charles Sears bought the Laundromat in 1981.

The old city well was on the southwest corner of Mock & Buchanan beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was used as the starting point when the city was platted. The well and pump remained in use until the late 1930s or early 40s, when the McCoy's put in a new sidewalk.

West of McCoy Produce—Dairyette, which was run by Tommy & Judy Roberts in the 1960s. Later became the Bee Hive.



Near the current location of Fidler Homes Bldg.—Lion Oil Service Station

### **Talking about north side of Buchanan, going west from Mock**

Northwest corner of Mock & Buchanan—Fidler's

1-story building constructed about 1905. Housed the Carl General Merchandise Store, run by E. C. and F. H. Carl. See metal panel on the eastern façade. Later home to Farmer's Hardware before it moved to the south side of E. Buchanan.

2-story building—built ca. 1905. Had decorative pressed metal façade like the Masonic Building. Home to Prairie Grove Telephone Company.

PG Tel. Co.—incorporated in October 1906 (by Dr. E. G. McCormick and pharmacists William McCormick and M. M. Collier) and has remained family-owned and operated since that time. Dr. E. G. McCormick started providing telephone service in PG in 1888, when he strung a line from his office to his brother, William's, pharmacy. Later strung the line from PG to Fayetteville. James C. Parks, McCormick's son-in-law, started working on the switchboard and later became president of the company. He operated the company until his death in 1958. The company remains in the Parks family and is currently headed by David Parks. The old PG telephone prefix was Vinewood or VI.

1-story building—*Prairie Grove Enterprise* until 1943, when it became Oklahoma Tire & Supply (OTASCO).

Western portion of the block—in the 1930s, Roy O. Fidler built a garage and filling station out of native stone (just west of the old OTASCO building). In 1943 Fidler bought the old PG Enterprise building and opened OTASCO there. He later bought the lots west of the filling station and built rock veneer buildings over to Kate Smith Street. The corner building (at NE corner of W. Buchanan and Kate Smith) was Basham's Grocery & Market, and other storefronts were occupied by Arkansas Western Gas, Kate Cheatham's Café, the post office, a ladies ready-to-wear shop, Dunn Cleaners, etc. The buildings have been rebricked on the front façade. A plaque on the wall says "Fidler 1946," but I'm not sure if this is the

original construction date for the buildings or the date of the façade alteration. The brick looks much newer than 1946. When Roy Fidler died in 1970, his brother, Howard Fidler, connected the buildings (by putting doorways in interior walls). Fidler's True Value Hardware is now run by Mike Fidler, son of Howard Fidler.

Old concrete jail behind the Southern—built ca. 1925.

Washington Co. Milling Company—southeast corner S. Mock & Commercial

The mill was originally constructed with a 3-story elevator section, 2-story mill, and 1 ½-story warehouse. An awning ran along the entire southern elevation. Sometime between 1919 and 1924, a third story was added to the mill section. In 1923 an additional 1-story warehouse portion was constructed going out toward Mock Street. It shows up on the 1924 Sanborn map. The next Sanborn is from 1948 and shows a couple of additions. A small 2-story section was built to the south of the elevator, and a 1-story part extended to the south of that. An entirely separate (detached) 1-story structure was built just to the south of the 1 ½-story part of the mill building. It was later attached to the main building (sometime after 1948).

The mill has a full basement with a well/cistern. The mill still contains some original equipment, including the belts and cups that carried flour and sifting and bagging machines. The overlapped siding on the building's east end is there to cover huge oak timbers that were attached to buttress (or support) the grain holding bins on that end of the building. The building has a concrete foundation with wood floors and wood framing and beams. The exterior is covered in galvanized metal, some of which is painted white.

In 1944 Atlas Cohea purchased the mill and with his father, Fred, and brother, Amos, used the facility to grind and mix animal feeds and corn meal. Most of the flour equipment was sold during this period. Troy Sherry bought the property in 1964 and operated Sherry's Farm Supply. Sherry did not actually manufacture feed in the mill. He used it as a warehouse and store. Local contractor Marcus Nall

purchased the property in May 2012 and plans to rehabilitate the structure for use as an event venue.