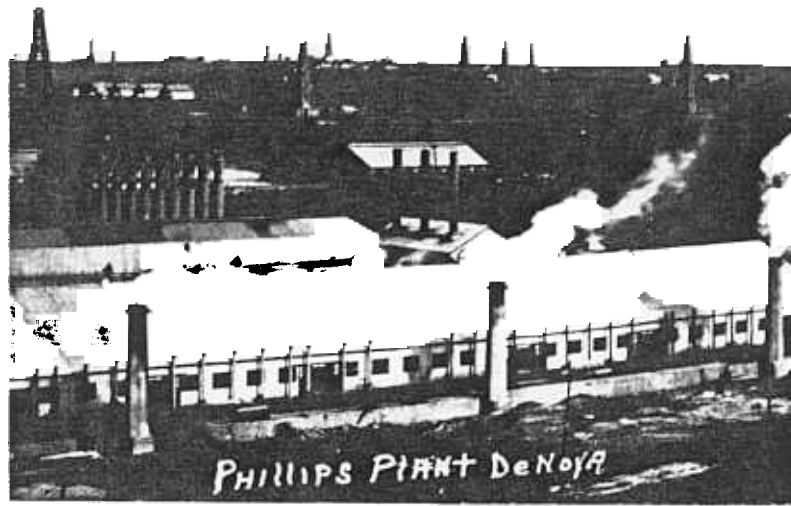


DENOYA (Whizbang)

DeNoya, better known locally as Whizbang, was the "wildest" of the boom towns that developed with the opening of the Burbank Oil Field. The Post Office Department thought the name Whizbang was an undignified identification, so they named the new town DeNoya after a prominent Osage Indian family.

DeNoya came into existence almost overnight after a six-hundred-barrel well was brought in just north of where the town was located. The well was drilled by E. W. Marland, later Governor of Oklahoma and also United States Congressman. The second well was a heavy gas and light oil producer. The oil would burn in an automobile. The third offset well was topped the day before Christmas. On New Year's Day, while the crew was on vacation, the well started flowing one barrel per minute with the tools still in the hole. The only tank available was a thousand-barrel wooden storage tank. A flow line was laid to it, and help was summoned from Tulsa immediately. By dark, trucks had delivered three-inch pipe, and by three o'clock the next morning a pipeline three miles long had been laid to adequate storage facilities. The flow from the well increased to a little over twenty-five hundred barrels a day.

With an oil play of such magnitude, businesses of all kinds, desirable and undesirable, were soon established in the new town. Large oilfield supply houses were started, and a railroad was extended to DeNoya. In the early 1920s there were more than three hundred business buildings ranging in size from



the very small hamburger shacks to two moderately large hotels. Many people living in DeNoya were not connected with oil companies. Shootings were more frequent in DeNoya than in other towns in the Burbank area. The bank was robbed twice, and "it wasn't safe for a woman to be on the streets of Whizbang after dark."

DeNoya died almost as rapidly as it was built. In the late 1920s, as production declined, people started moving away. Good roads to large cities, changes in agriculture and cattle business, the depression of the 1930s, with the loss of property evaluation, and abandonment of the railroad resulted in the death not only of DeNoya but also of most Burbank Oil Field towns and camps. All that remains of DeNoya today are foundations of some buildings and a few oil rigs.

Excerpts from "Ghost Towns in Oklahoma"—John W. Morris

An early day picture of DeNoya oil fields and beginning of the town of "Whizbang."

COOPER

The little oilfield "boomtown" of Cooper was located in the northwest corner of Osage County near Webb City and Shidler, and only seven miles from Burbank.

The town was named for an early day rancher Edward E. Cooper. It had a Post Office from Aug. 20, 1923 until Oct. 14, 1939, but the town itself was gone several years before.

Cooper was a typical oil field boomtown with board walks, muddy streets, box car houses and small shops. Oil derricks were everywhere and when lighted at night looked like a big city. Some times oil gushed over the top of the derrick.

Cooper had quite a business area. It had two streets. Main Street ran north and south and the "Road", as the other street was called, ran east and west. It had several cafes, a novelty store, a men's clothing store, a slicker shop where they sold oilfield slickers



was robbed three times in one week, and an often repeated statement told of two men who had an argument on the street which ended with one of the men having his stomach cut open then and there, but quick action by one of the local doctors soon had the man on his feet.

In 1932 Miss Sheel retired and Harvey Sanderson, local banker, became the new Postmaster and the Post Office was moved into the back of the bank building. In 1948 Mr. Sanderson sold the bank and retired as Postmaster, and Mrs. Jessie Moore, niece of Anthony Carlton, founder of Burbank, became the new Postmaster and is serving in that position in the new Post Office built in 1975.

When the town was established a cemetery was located one mile west of town and it is still in use and is well cared for under the direction of the Town Board.

Abe Strader, owner and manager of the Texaco Station, has been in his present location since 1930.

With the Depression of 1929 and the introduction of new mechanical means of oil production, the town began to dwindle down to the small farm and ranch community it had been before the oil boom.

Jessie Moore

FORAKER

Foraker, settled in 1905, was a government townsite platted under the supervision of the Department of the Interior.

Shortly after its settlement, Foraker became an agricultural boom town. In 1909 the population living within the city limits was estimated at 500, and the trade territory had a radius of approximately 25 miles. The town was

Foraker before 1919, Buckley Drug Store, Catholic and Methodist Churches. .



Foraker before 1919, prosperous agricultural community, Christian Church and Foraker School.

served by the Midland Valley Railroad. A second line was surveyed crossing to Foraker, but was never built.

Corn and alfalfa were the principal crops and the area was rich in natural pasture. It became one of the best hog and cattle producing sections in Oklahoma.

When only four years old, Foraker resembled a much older town. Concrete sidewalks were throughout the business district, two banks, two drug stores, three hardware stores, six mercantile stores, two grocery stores, two lumberyards, two livery stables, two grain elevators, other necessary establishments and more building in progress. There were also two "live" newspapers, two churches, and active fraternal organizations. Two blocks had been designated for a public park, \$30,000 in bonds had been voted for a light and water system, and a new \$20,000 school building had been completed. Freight and passenger service into and out of Foraker had tripled within the year.

After its rapid beginning Foraker declined until about 1920, when oil was discovered in the Burbank area some

15 miles to the south. Foraker was the shipping point nearest the new oil field; thus, the town had another boom period, when it became the center for the distribution of oil-field equipment and supplies. A branch rail line, the Osage Railway, was extended from Foraker into the oil-producing area for the shipment of tank cars of petroleum products. Population of the town jumped to over 2,000, and several new business buildings and homes were constructed. Since oil was not found in the area immediately adjacent to Foraker, the town did not suffer the rough and lawless times of a true oil-field community.

With the decrease in oil production during the 1930s, Foraker declined rapidly. The development of large ranches, the abandonment of the railroads, the building of highways, and the use of large trucks to move livestock to market have resulted in the demise of the town. No businesses operate and only a few people live in the once thriving community.

Excerpts from "Ghost Towns in Oklahoma"—John W. Morris

I am now almost eighty-five years old, and well remember my girlhood days, when I was 15, and my parents moved to Foraker.

My father, Will Sharp, was employed by Gypsy Oil Co. for several years and drove his "oil team" many miles each day over the Osage prairies to the area around "Whizbang." He returned home late at night, but his trusty horses knew the way with only dim trails to follow. At that time "Whizbang" was populated by many gamblers and a very rough element, and one man was murdered there.



I remember at that time Foraker was a small, but thriving little town. There was a bank (later two banks), and Post Office. Mrs. Dutton was postmaster at that time, and Mr. Dutton published a newspaper there. There was a large brick two story building owned by Mrs. Buhl, with a general store below and the hotel and dance hall above.

There was the McComb general store, and Edd Schroke general store, also the Seward Hardware Store, and a meat shop owned by "Cap" Ragan.

A drug store was owned by a Mr. McNaughton and the Wilcoxs owned a meat shop and lived in the story above. There was a livery stable owned by "Fatty" Barham, then later by Jess Dunn and Mr. Romine. Foraker also had a nice little band with Saturday evening concerts, with Mr. Geats the conductor. There were also three churches and a nice two-story brick school building where our children attended grade school and also graduated from high school.

Foraker had several devastating fires (whole blocks burned at a time) and no water system then. The oil play moved to the Burbank area and businesses disappeared, so Foraker became a "ghost town."

Ila Sharp Jacobs