

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE

The story of The Village and of it being surrounded by Oklahoma City began with the construction of an insignificant addition north of Nichols Hills. What is now The Village was a wheat field in 1949 when developer Floyd Harrison and his associates, Joe Bob Harrison and Sylvania Felix bought 135 acres of land South of Britton Road and West of Pennsylvania Avenue to start a new housing development.

The first addition to be built was named The Village Addition to Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. Soon thereafter, the Casady Heights, first, second and third additions were added to the fledgling community. Other additions soon followed and The Village grew across Pennsylvania to the East until the development reached the Oklahoma City limits which ended at Waverly Avenue.

The Village was incorporated as a town in 1950 and later as a city in 1959. Residents voted to incorporate because of the fear that Oklahoma City would move to annex the area. Like nearby Nichols Hills, residents wanted to maintain a small town atmosphere and did not want to become part of Oklahoma City.

Throughout the 1950's the town grew bit by bit. Oklahoma City edged northward, as well. Oklahoma City won a battle over annexation of West Nichols Hills while The Village added the Northridge Manor Addition and the Lakeside Estates Addition North of Britton Road and West of May Avenue. Oklahoma City brought its Lake Hefner property within its corporate limits. In the manner of early day settlers who in a daring midnight raid stole the State Seal from Guthrie to establish Oklahoma City as the State Capitol, The Village City Council beat Oklahoma City to the punch by annexing 155 acres of land in a dawn meeting. The Village had managed to creep northward growing all the way to Hefner Road.

In an apparent move aimed at cutting off further growth of suburban communities, Oklahoma City stabbed across the North and annexed lands North of Hefner Road and hence halted The Village's northward march.

The annexation battles of the 1950's and early 1960's gave rise to a number of interesting disputes between Oklahoma City and The Village. Residents of The Village rose up in arms in 1952 in a dispute with Oklahoma City over law enforcement jurisdiction. Apparently, Oklahoma City officers had on occasion made traffic stops within the corporate limits of The Village. Mayor John Chiaf vowed to "stop this kidnapping of our citizens" even if it meant arresting Oklahoma City policemen. The Oklahoma City Police Chief retorted "that can work two ways". A truce was finally declared and the streets were once again "safe" for motorists in The Village.

As the town grew over the years, boundary lines had also become somewhat confusing. Residents of a two block area between Waverly and Pennsylvania Avenue woke up one morning to find that they hadn't really been living in The Village all those years, but in Oklahoma City. The discovery was made by an aspiring politician who wanted to run for Mayor of Oklahoma City even though he lived in what was thought to be The Village. His research into the boundary lines led to the discovery which, in the opinion of many of the residents, was a great shock and loss. To make matters worse, the young politician did not become Mayor of Oklahoma City despite all of his efforts.