



Oklahoma Bank and Commerce History Project

a program of the Oklahoma Historical Society

**Meetings w/ Bob Bates, Sheila Bell, Curtis Davidson
First National Bank of Ardmore
Ardmore, OK, 8/6/2012
Interviewer: Michael J. Hightower
No interviews were recorded**

MJH did not record interviews, but rather, met independently w/ Bob Bates, Sheila Bell, and Curtis Davidson. MJH visited w/ Sheila in board room, and she provided folder w/ photocopies of historical documents and photos. She will try to locate audio tapes of interviews from 1970s (?).

Final meeting was with Curtis Davidson. He mentioned early on that FNB Ardmore was oldest bank in the state. "You need to start at the beginning," he said.

Below is gist of conversation:

CD: You know what the most famous thing about Ardmore is, don't you?

MJH: No, I can't say that I do.

CD: It's golf. Perry Maxwell came from here.

Curtis called Bob Bates into his office to discuss Perry Maxwell, a golf course designer. He designed Southern Hills in Tulsa and other famous courses. Both recommended Bob Kerr, local historian, as a good source of Ardmore history. Clearly, golf is at the bedrock of Ardmore and FNB Ardmore identity.

[MJH found valuable materials, online and in vertical files, at Ardmore Public Library following meetings at FNB Ardmore.]

Toward end of meeting w/ Curtis, he mentioned that south-central Oklahoma culture does not fit into either eastern or western Oklahoma because of oil and gas industry. The area has a unique culture.

Notes 9/25/13

MJH did not conduct a structures interview. Instead, he had conversations with the following bank principals, in this order:

- Bobby Bates (very brief, mainly small talk in his office)
- Sheila Bell (board room)
- Curtis Davidson (office)

CD: “You know what the most famous thing is about this bank, don’t you?”

MJH: “No, I can’t say that I do.”

CD: “It’s golf. Perry Maxwell came from here.”

Perry Maxwell was a golf course designer. He designed Southern Hills in Tulsa, among other famous golf courses.

CD: FNB Ardmore is the oldest bank in Oklahoma. “You need to start at the beginning.”

I had an earlier meeting with Sheila Bell in the board room. She gave me packet of documents and photos, mentioned audio cassette interviews from 30 years ago. She offered to obtain copies.

CD: “South central Oklahoma culture is unique because of oil and gas. It is part of neither eastern nor western Oklahoma.”

Toward the end of my meeting with CD, he called Bobby Bates into his office and mentioned local historian, Bob Kerr, as an authority.

End

Following meetings at FNB Ardmore, MJH went to Ardmore Public Library for further research. Copious records, some online, about Perry Maxwell.