



Then and Now

Old Friends are Worth Keeping

This week while rummaging through papers and documents my dad kept all these years about all things Stillwater, I ran across a copy of a remarkable issue of an old Stillwater newspaper.

Emphasis on OLD.

This issue of The Stillwater Gazette also ran on a Thursday – April 12, 1900. Maybe the FIRST Throw-back Thursday in creation!

Excerpts from the Stillwater Gazette seems a fitting launch for this column.

WHY NOT HAVE A 'CONVENTION HALL' IN STILLWATER."

Stillwater Gazette, Thursday, April 12, 1900

By "An Humble Citizen"

There is no building in Payne County suitable for even a county convention, this citizen continued.

"It is a well-known fact that Stillwater, by reason of her college, schools, churches, business enterprises and her wonderful advancement in the past ten years, in spite of adverse conditions, has a reputation far beyond the confines of the territory.

"Now, with a railroad, funds for erecting a system of water works, an additional school building, possible municipal ownership of an electric light system and possible erection of City Hall with numerous business blocks rising heavenward, and others contemplated, it would

seem proper that the subject of a 'Convention Hall' adequate for the use of such a town could be taken hold of by our Commercial Club.

He went on to list such activities as holding a gathering of any size such as a "county convention of a political party, or a territorial convention, or a theatrical company."

"Why not have the matter brought up and some plan formulated under their (the commercial club's) management which will bring about a result.

"The writer is not a member of the club, but well knows the aim and object of such an organization. The club we have is composed of men who are capable enterprising gentlemen who have organized for the advancement of the interests of Stillwater.

Will some member please agitate this question?"

And so, the question has been agitated many times during the past 117 years.

To be continued.



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Ann C. Houston is another 'humble citizen,' longtime supporter of the Stillwater Community Center, and member of the Stillwater Community Center Foundation.

The Stillwater Community Center Foundation and the Friends of Stillwater Community Center strive to provide supplemental resources for the Stillwater Community Center to ensure its accessibility, affordability and sustainability for its use by residents and visitors of Stillwater and surrounding area. Visit www.sccfriends.com for more information.

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