

ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA



Bill Love joined the company in 1940. He served in many positions before becoming a theatre manager in 1953. He moved to Ardmore as manager in 1960.

Ardmore is located about halfway between Oklahoma City and Dallas. This town has a history which is both turbulent and colorful. Its beginning came when the Santa Fe Railroad pushed through in the late 1880's. The area was then the Chickasaw Indian Nation and was in the Indian Territory until statehood in 1907. Many of the descendants of the original Chickasaws still live in the area.

Its early economy came from cotton farming and ranching until the major oil fields started developing in 1911-1912.

Since the oil discoveries came early in the area...before high income taxes...many great fortunes were made and it is said Ardmore had 50 millionaires at one time.

During War II a major airbase was built near town and the residential area expanded greatly. The closing of the base after the war was a shock to the economy but diligent efforts on the part of the townspeople brought in new industries, which use the base buildings and

facilities. These varied industries plus continued oil development, ranching and farming, give the town a solid economic condition.

Lake Murray was the first of the big lakes built in Oklahoma and is located just south of the city. Lake Murray State Park is known far and wide as a recreational spot. In addition to Lake Murray, Lake Texoma is within a few minutes driving distance and Ardmore can truthfully boast of being the recreation center of Southern Oklahoma.

Good transportation is a key to its existence. The Santa Fe Railroad still serves the area and highways 77 and 70 intersect at Ardmore.

The Chamber of Commerce says, and we quote, "Ardmore today is a mixture of metropolitan progress, industrial development and culture. Here one can enjoy comfortable lodging, fine dining, theatres, shopping, playgrounds and water sports."

In 1961 Ardmore was winner of the State Community Achievement Award for towns of its size. Present population is 21,297.