

# Chapter 13

## Growing Pains

### Chapter Preview

#### TERMS

tax, ordinance, cooperative, grandfather clause, gerrymandering, impeachment, headright, draft, council of defense, dissenter, pandemic, armistice


#### PEOPLE

Kate Barnard, Lee Cruce, Robert L. Williams, Tom Slick, Wirt Franklin, Sidney Suggs, Cyrus Avery, Choctaw Code Talkers

#### PLACES

Greenwood, Cushing, Healdton, Camp Doniphan





**The Oklahoma State Capitol** was completed in 1917 at a cost of \$1.5 million. The planned dome was not built at the time due to a shortage of steel during World War I. The dome was finally added in 2002 at a cost of \$21 million, or 14 times the cost of the original building!

**T**he eyes of the nation were on the “baby” state of Oklahoma. The population at the time of statehood was almost 1.5 million, and Oklahoma was growing faster than any other state. The growth had come in tsunami-sized waves: the forced relocation of the Native Americans, the post-Civil War influx of non-Indians to Indian Territory, and the opening of the western territory land. The story that was unfolding in the heartland of the country was already like no other.

At the time of statehood, Oklahoma had 5,000 miles of railway track, and crop production was impressive: 97,000 bushels of corn, 30 million bushels of wheat, 670,000 bales of cotton. Oklahoma also had 20 percent of the American petroleum supply. The new state was reported to have 12,000 manufacturing plants, 250,000 farms, two dozen cities of more than 10,000 people, and a \$35 million fund for public schools.

The *Washington Post* reported on November 18, 1907, “the future of the State will be watched with the most cordial interest. Oklahoma is neither a Southern nor a Northern State, but a Commonwealth which seems to combine the genial, hospitable qualities of the South with the energy and enterprise of the North, and those who know it best predict great things for its future. May its prosperity increase in the future as it has in the past, and may its politics be as clean and its people as happy as its broad acres are fertile and its people are enterprising.”



# Signs of the Times

## HOW PEOPLE LIVED

The average salary in 1910 was \$750 a year. A 12-day vacation cruise cost \$60. Milk cost 32 cents a gallon.

## NEWS

Ocean liners were the rage, but the *Titanic* sank on its maiden voyage in 1912, and the *Lusitania* was torpedoed and sunk in 1915. Chautauquas, or camp meetings, entertained and inspired children and adults in communities throughout the country.

## TRANSPORTATION

Automobiles were developed beginning in the 1800s, and the Ford Motor Company perfected the assembly line in the early 1900s. In 1908, the Model T sold for \$950, but by 1927 the price had dropped to \$280 because of mass production.

## FIRSTS

President Roosevelt sent a telegraph message around the world; it came back to him in 12 minutes. The first “perfect” major league baseball game was pitched by Cy Young. The first Olympic Games in the United States took place at St. Louis.

## LITERATURE

Upton Sinclair published *The Jungle* about the meatpacking industry. Jack London published *White Fang* and *Martin Eden*.

## TOYS

Tinkertoys were introduced in 1914 at the American Toy Fair in New York, a year after Alfred Carlton Gilbert invented the toy Erector Set. The building boom in America inspired John Lloyd Wright, son of the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright, to invent Lincoln Logs in 1916.

## BUSINESS

New businesses of the period include U.S. Steel Corporation and Ford Motor Company.

## Figure 14 Timeline: 1900–1920





# Section 1

## Politics



**Thomas P. Gore**, a prominent Lawton lawyer, was appointed as one of Oklahoma's first two senators.

### Something Extra!

A federal law similar to the bank guaranty law was enacted in the 1930s when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was created.

#### As you read, look for

- early legislation passed by the first Legislature,
- the actions taken by the Legislature that were the beginning of segregation in Oklahoma,
- the growth of the Socialist Party,
- the new capital city, and
- vocabulary terms **tax**, **ordinance**, **cooperative**, **grandfather clause**, **gerrymandering**, and **impeachment**.

**The Oklahoma supreme court convened for the first time on** Statehood Day, and Robert L. Williams of Durant was selected to serve as the chief justice. Governor Charles Haskell's first official act was to appoint the previously chosen Robert L. Owen of Muskogee and Thomas P. Gore of Lawton as the U.S. senators from Oklahoma. Haskell also took action that first day to prevent the Standard Oil Company from laying a natural gas pipeline from Washington County, Oklahoma, to Kansas. Haskell and others wanted to use the state's natural gas resources to build new industries in Oklahoma rather than in other states.

#### First State Legislature

Oklahoma's first Legislature convened in December 1907. Henry S. Johnston was elected senate president pro tempore, and William Murray was named speaker of the house. For the most part, the progressive movement set the tone for the legislative session as it had for the state constitution. Some national labor reforms were later modeled after the Oklahoma labor policy, which dealt with safety for mines, child labor, factory inspections, health and sanitation, employer's liability for workers' injuries, labor disputes, public employment, convict-made goods, and more. Following the lead of other states, the first Legislature established a Labor Day holiday.

So much that we take for granted today was established during the first legislative session. Provisions were made for county and local governments, establishing towns and cities, elections, school districts, school financing and building construction, teacher training, textbooks, school attendance, and more.

Taxes were authorized to keep the new government operating. (A **tax** is an amount charged citizens and businesses by their governments—federal, state, local—to pay for services provided.) A tax based on income was adopted, as were taxes on personal and real property. Money from property taxes was earmarked for local government and public schools. Taxes were also set on the gross revenue from pipelines, coal mines, and telegraph lines, and for the gross production of oil, railroads, telephones, and electricity. An inheritance tax, sometimes called a “death tax,” was placed on property.

The Legislature addressed the problem of the sometimes unstable banks of the day with a bank guaranty law. Governor Haskell and the Legislature knew that strong banks were necessary for a strong economy and that the public’s trust in the banking system was vital. Each state-chartered bank contributed one percent of its average daily balance to a fund that was used to insure deposits in the event of a bank’s failure. The act was repealed by the ninth Legislature when the guaranty fund was depleted.

## Higher Education

Before statehood, each territory had developed its own educational structure. Locations for Oklahoma territorial schools were selected primarily as a result of land and money contributions from local communities. By 1892, the Oklahoma Territorial University in Norman (University of Oklahoma), the Oklahoma Territorial Normal School in Edmond (University of Central Oklahoma), and the Oklahoma Territorial Agricultural and Mechanical School in Stillwater (Oklahoma State University) were holding classes. Before 1907, other colleges were located at Alva, Langston, Weatherford, Kingfisher, and Tonkawa.

**Below:** Robert L. Owen, a part-Cherokee from Muskogee who had served with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Indian Territory, was one of the state’s first two senators. **Bottom:** The Oklahoma Territorial University was established in Norman in 1890. Upon statehood, it became the University of Oklahoma.



Private institutions included Epworth University (later renamed Oklahoma City University), which was founded in 1904. Henry Kendall College, established in Muskogee in 1894 and moved to Tulsa in 1907, later became Tulsa University. Phillips University in Enid and Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee were both established in 1907.

The Legislature wanted to provide educational opportunities throughout the state. In 1909, three normal schools were established in eastern Oklahoma—Southeastern in Durant, Northeastern in Tahlequah, and East Central in Ada. A university preparatory school was established at Claremore. Two college-level schools were created—the Industrial Institute and College for Girls at Chickasha and the School of Mines and Metallurgy at Wilburton.

Six secondary agricultural schools were created. They were Connors State in Warner, Murray State in Tishomingo, Cameron State in Lawton, Haskell State in Broken Arrow, Connell State in Helena, and Panhandle State in Goodwell. The Miami School of Mines was created in 1919. Other state institutions included an orphanage at Pryor, a school for the deaf at Sulphur, and a mental hospital at Vinita.

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### Legal Discrimination

Racial overtones also defined the first Legislature and many of those that followed. Oklahoma was not acting alone in the way it dealt with the segregation issue. In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that African Americans could be segregated (separated) from whites if equal facilities were provided. The first issue acted upon by the Legislature was Senate Bill Number 1, which segregated African Americans on

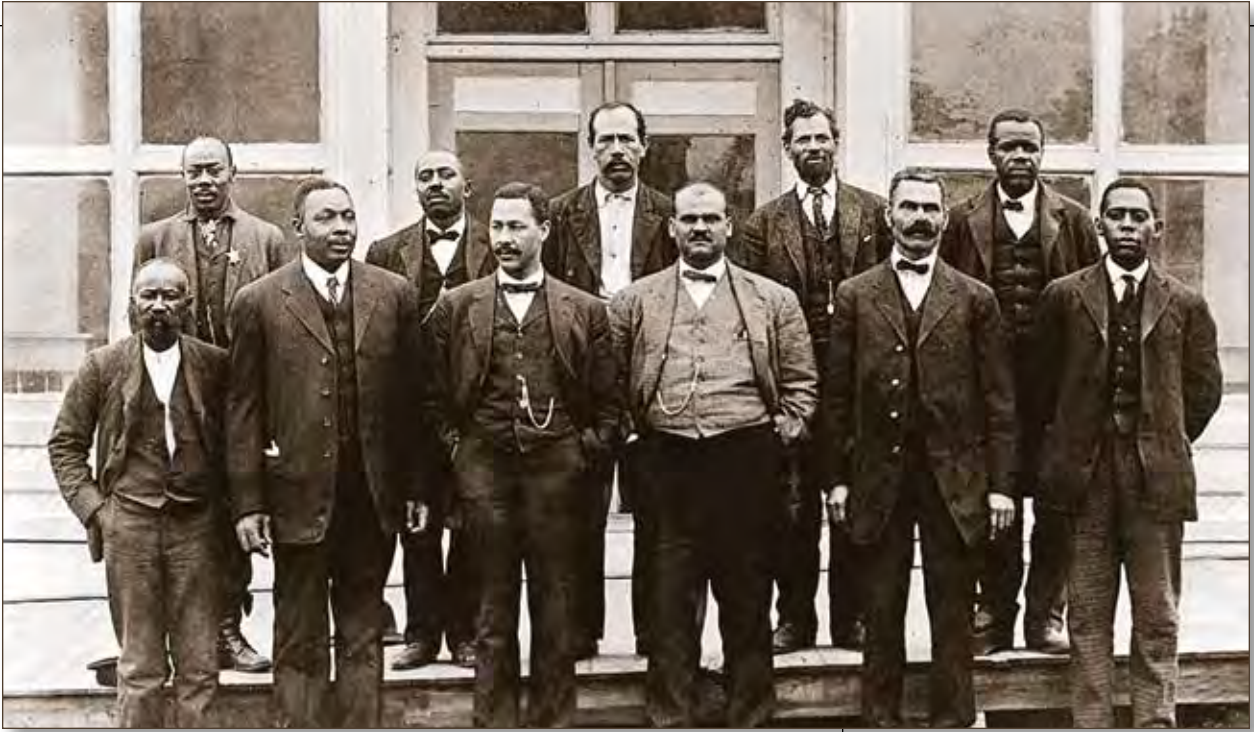
railway cars and in waiting rooms. The racially biased law passed with support from both parties. Blacks and some members of the Socialist Party were outraged, and riots broke out in several towns. Citizens burned the railroad station in the black community of Taft, and passionate voices spoke at many public meetings.

African Americans also suffered under *de facto* (actual, if not legal) segregation. In Oklahoma City, for example, blacks made up about 10 percent of the population, and most lived in segregated neighborhoods in generally undesirable areas. Some blacks prospered and began to buy houses in all-white neighborhoods. The Oklahoma City Board of Commissioners enacted an **ordinance** (a local law) making it illegal for a person to move into a block on which 75 percent of the buildings were occupied by people of a different race. The ordinance effectively prevented blacks from moving into white neighborhoods and segregated everything from churches to dance halls.



**Roscoe Dunjee, publisher of *The Black Dispatch*, encouraged the black community to fight for their civil rights. He wrote numerous editorials criticizing blacks who didn't participate in politics. This portrait of Dunjee by Simmie Knox hangs in the State Capitol.**





Roscoe Dunjee, publisher of *The Black Dispatch*, and William Floyd, a black shoemaker, tested the law. Floyd purchased a home on an all-white block and tried to move in several times. Each time he was arrested, and each time Dunjee bailed him out. When the case reached the federal court, a judge ruled that the ordinance was unconstitutional and Floyd had the right to move into his property.

In spite of everything, blacks were generally better off in Oklahoma than in the South. For instance, compared to Texas, more black children in Oklahoma attended school, fewer were illiterate, and the average value of a black-owned farm was double that of one in Texas. By 1910, the state's black population was 137,612, or 8 percent of the total. About 18 percent of the blacks were enrolled members of Indian tribes. In addition to having several all-black communities, many of the larger cities and towns in the state had sizable black neighborhoods, as did Oklahoma City. An area in Tulsa, called Greenwood, was becoming an important black community with a thriving business district.

### Political Parties

The territorial government in Oklahoma was primarily Republican, but in 1907 the Democratic Party took control. All of the elected officials and the majority of both the state and federal representatives were Democrats. Another national party, the Socialist Party, also gained strong support in the new state.

The Socialist Party formed in 1901 when the Social Democratic Party and the Socialist Labor Party of America combined. Most of the party's supporters were in midwestern and Plains states, and they included trade unionists, miners, immigrants, and intellectuals.

**After the Civil War, Indians were required to treat their slaves as citizens and provide them land. From 1865 to 1920, more than fifty black towns were established in Oklahoma. This photograph shows the town council of Boley, one of those towns.**

### Something Extra!

Oklahoma's population in 1910 was 1,657,155. Of that number, 87 percent were white, 8 percent were black, and 5 percent were Indian.





**Top: A Socialist Party encampment. The Socialist Party offered hope to the poor in the state. It was such a strong third party in Oklahoma that both Republicans and Democrats had to take the party into account when developing their own strategies. Above: Patrick Nagle, a radical lawyer, was a Socialist leader and the party's candidate for governor in 1917.**

Many of Oklahoma's early farmers had battled bad weather and poor crop prices and were facing desperate economic situations. Some of the state's farmers, miners, and others had emigrated from socialist countries, and others believed the political and economic elite were creating poverty for the common people. For many, the Socialist Party best addressed their needs.

For seven years after statehood, the Socialist vote increased in Oklahoma; in 1910, there were more Socialist Party members in our state than in any other. The voters supported candidates who promised to create publicly owned **cooperatives** (organizations owned by and operated for those using their services), provide state credit for farmers, and force the breakup of large land holdings. Many of the issues Socialists supported were also championed by the progressive movement. The Socialists became the Democrats' main opposition in the state until World War I brought better crop prices and questions about party members' loyalty.

Oklahomans participated in a national election for the first time in 1908. Oklahoma's seven electoral votes went to Democrat William Jennings Bryan, although Republican William Howard Taft won the national election. Democrats retained the majority in the second Legislature, but one new house member was Republican A. C. Hamlin, an African American from Guthrie. Republicans won three of Oklahoma's five U.S. congressional seats in 1908. Democrats blamed the new Republican strength on black voters.

In 1910, the Democrat-controlled Legislature added a Jim Crow law similar to those in other southern states that limited voting by African Americans. The bill sent to Oklahoma voters provided that, to register to vote, a person had to prove that he could read and write parts of the state constitution or was a descendant of a person who was eligible to vote on January 1, 1866. This was commonly called the **grandfather clause**. Although the law did not specifically mention blacks, it virtually denied African Americans the right to vote.

## Social Reform

Born in Nebraska and raised in Kansas, Kate Barnard moved to Oklahoma Territory with her father in the 1890s. She worked as a teacher and stenographer, but she found that her passion was in social reform and politics. In 1907, at age 32, Barnard became the first woman in the nation elected to a state position, that of commissioner of charities and corrections.

Incensed with the deplorable conditions and mistreatment of Oklahoma prisoners at the Kansas Penitentiary at Lansing, Barnard worked to return the prisoners to Oklahoma. The first group of prisoners was moved to McAlester in October 1908, even though a prison facility had not yet been built. Barnard's vision of a good prison was "one which turns out the largest percentage of prisoners who never return to a life of crime." The Legislature appropriated funds for a state penitentiary in McAlester, where citizens had donated 100 acres of land for the facility. Prisoners built their own temporary stockade and then began construction on the penitentiary in May 1909. Political wrangling soon began for a state reformatory in the southwestern part of the state. The Oklahoma State Reformatory was established in March 1909 at Granite, although the facility was not completed until 1914.

Barnard worked tirelessly for laws to prohibit child labor, require school attendance, and provide facilities for orphans and the mentally ill. Barnard developed her ideas after touring factories and slums in other states. She wrote, "No man can deal intelligently with life until he first understands how all classes of men live and under what conditions they make their daily bread." Barnard stepped down from her position in 1914, but she left an enduring legacy. "Oklahoma Kate," as she was known across the nation, was often requested to present her ideas and methods for charities and corrections reforms throughout the country.

## Moving a Capital

The Enabling Act of 1906 designated Guthrie as the capital of Oklahoma until at least 1913. As the cities began to take shape, the Republican influence became prominent in Guthrie, while Oklahoma City had more of a Democratic flavor. Eager to move the capital from the Republican hotbed, Governor Haskell called for a special election on Saturday, June 11, 1910, to determine whether Guthrie, Oklahoma



**Kate Barnard** was a "crusader." She convinced legislators to authorize a mental hospital in Enid, a reformatory near Pauls Valley, an orphanage at Pryor, and state prisons at McAlester and Granite.





**Above:** Governor Charles N. Haskell's first office in Oklahoma City was located in the Lee-Huckins Hotel. He is seen here in the hallway of the hotel signing authorizations for a class of Oklahoma University graduates. **Opposite page, below:** A scene from the inauguration of Oklahoma's second governor, Lee Cruce of Ardmore. **Opposite page, above:** Cruce, a lawyer and banker, attempted to consolidate public institutions to save money.

City, or Shawnee would be the capital city. Oklahoma City received the most votes.

Haskell sent his private secretary, W. B. Anthony, to Guthrie to take possession of the state seal. On Sunday, June 12, Anthony delivered the official state seal to Secretary of State Bill Cross in the government's temporary Oklahoma City offices in the Lee-Huckins Hotel. Haskell issued a proclamation, imprinted with the seal, declaring Oklahoma City the state capital. Oklahomans were surprised to learn that Haskell had so quickly proclaimed Oklahoma City the capital. Guthrie protested the move in the courts, but Oklahoma City remained the state capital.

In addition to moving the state capital, Haskell oversaw efforts to enforce Oklahoma's prohibition law and state rates for railroad passengers. State Attorney General Charles West was directed to crack down on unlawful activity between county and law officials and those who made and sold illegal whiskey. The Corporation Commission held firm in its fight with the powerful railroad companies to continue state rates for passenger fares of two cents per mile.

### **Oklahoma's Next Governors**

Lee Cruce, an Ardmore banker, was elected Oklahoma's second governor in 1910. He appointed a commission to manage the construction of the State Capitol, which was designed by Solomon Layton and S. Wemyss Smith. The building was completed in June 1917 at a

## Something Extra!

The exterior of the State Capitol was made of Indiana limestone; pink granite from Troy, Oklahoma; and black granite from Cold Springs, Oklahoma.

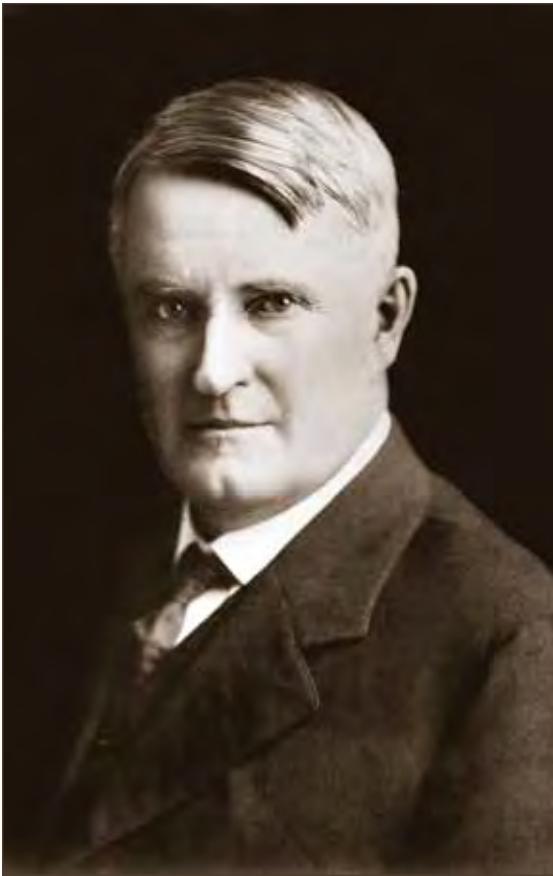
cost of about \$1.5 million. Although the plans called for a dome on the capitol, it was not added at the time because of a wartime steel shortage. The dome was finally added to the building in 2002 at a cost of \$21 million.

By 1910, state government spending had increased from \$4 million to \$9 million. Governor Cruce attempted to reduce government and cut costs, a move that angered the Legislature. Cruce and lawmakers were also at odds on redrawing the state's congressional districts. According to the 1910 census, Oklahoma's popula-

tion was 1,657,155, which increased its number of congressional seats from five to eight. The Democratic-controlled Legislature wanted to redraw the districts to weaken the Republican vote, a process called **gerrymandering**. When Cruce threatened to veto the Legislature's plan, the matter was deferred until 1913, and the new congressmen were elected at-large in 1912.







**Democrat Robert L. Williams** was elected governor in 1914 in a race with Al Jennings (a former outlaw), Republican John Fields, and Socialist Fred Holt.

More automobiles in Oklahoma and the nation resulted in Cruce establishing the Oklahoma Department of Highways with Sidney Suggs as director in 1911. Roads were to be built and improved with an annual \$1 license fee per automobile.

Cruce spent a great deal of time battling the Legislature, which began investigating the executive branch. The governor escaped **impeachment** by a single vote. (Impeachment is the process of charging a public official with wrongdoing while that official is still in office.) The state auditor and insurance commissioner resigned, and the state printer was impeached on a charge of illegal claims against state funds.

Democrat Robert L. Williams of Durant resigned as chief justice and was elected governor in 1914. Williams's administration tried to reduce state spending, but it also expanded the state highway system and pushed for welfare laws. During his term, the Legislature enacted a worker's compensation law (government insurance for accidental death or injury in the workplace), limited a woman's workday to nine hours, and established funds for veterans, widows, and orphans. Cotton gins were classified as public utilities and subject to regulation by the state. Williams was the first governor to move into the new Capitol in 1917.

During Williams's tenure, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the state's grandfather clause that, in effect, had silenced the black vote. A number of state election officials were convicted of violating federal election laws and were sentenced to prison, although they were later pardoned. When the pardons were appealed, the Court ruled, in *Guinn v. United States*, that the state amendment was a violation of the Fifteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Williams then tried to limit the black vote by basing the exemption on military service, rather than literacy, but Oklahomans voted against the proposal. Another effort aimed at limiting the black vote established a short, two-week registration period for voters not previously eligible, which was practiced until it was declared unlawful in 1939 by the *Lane v. Wilson* decision.

### It's Your Turn

1. What is the purpose of taxes?
2. What was the result of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson*?
3. What three cities vied to be the state capital?

# Oklahoma Profiles

## Jim Thorpe

**Named by some as the “greatest athlete of the century;”** James Francis Thorpe was born on May 22, 1887, in Keokuk Falls, south of Prague on the Sac and Fox Indian lands. He and his twin brother, Charlie, were born to Hiram P. Thorpe and Charlotte Vieux. Jim and Charlie attended the Sac and Fox Mission School. Charlie died at age nine, and Jim was deeply affected by the loss. Jim attended school at the Haskell Institute in Kansas and the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. Both of his parents had died by the time he was sixteen.

Thorpe was a natural athlete and participated in many sports at Carlisle—track and field, football, baseball, lacrosse, and even ballroom dancing. He played several positions in football, and he scored all of his team’s points in an 18-13 upset against Harvard in 1911. He eluded tackles by the future President Dwight Eisenhower in a win over Army. Thorpe won All-American honors in 1911 and 1912.

Thorpe gained worldwide admiration in the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden. The versatile athlete handily won gold medals in both the pentathlon and decathlon, a feat that has never been duplicated. He also competed in the high jump and long jump, placing fourth and seventh respectively, and he played in an exhibition baseball match. A short time later, Olympic officials learned that Thorpe had played semiprofessional baseball, which was against the rules. His Olympic medals were taken away, although they were returned to his heirs in 1983. The medals are now displayed with a portrait of Thorpe (above right) in the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

Thorpe went on to play professional baseball and football and was the first president of the American



Professional Football Association in 1920. Thorpe later worked in the movie industry. The film *Jim Thorpe—All American*, starring Burt Lancaster, was made in 1951. Of all the sports he was involved in, he most enjoyed hunting and fishing. Thorpe died March 28, 1953. The words spoken by King Gustav V of Sweden at the 1912 Olympics are engraved on Thorpe’s sarcophagus (a stone coffin)—“You sir, are the greatest athlete in the world.”



## Section 2

# Industry and Progress

**A panoramic view of the Healdton oil field. About one-half of all the oil used by the Allies in World War I came from this field.**

### As you read, look for

- the early development of the oil industry,
- the early efforts at roadbuilding, and
- vocabulary term **headright**.

**Previous discoveries of such minerals as coal, zinc, lead, gypsum, and salt** had somewhat reshaped what became Oklahoma. The discovery of large fields of petroleum made even more dramatic changes to the land and its people.

It's hard to imagine our state without paved roads, but that was the case in the early 1900s. The development of the internal combustion engine and automobiles, Oklahoma oil fields, and our network of roads went hand in hand. The oil discoveries would also play a part in the "war to end all wars."



## Black Gold

Indians and early explorers knew oil sometimes appeared in springs and creeks in Indian Territory. In the 1800s, some people believed oil had medicinal value; it was also used as a lubricant and as a fuel for lamps and lanterns. The development of the internal combustion engine used by industries and automobiles in the late 1800s and early 1900s created a larger demand for petroleum products.

As early as the 1880s, wildcat drillers sank wells near Atoka and along the Illinois River. Edward Byrd is credited with drilling the first well in what became Oklahoma near Chelsea in 1890. The first commercial oil discovery was the Nellie Johnstone No. 1 well in Bartlesville, which hit oil on April 15, 1897. Both wells had to be capped because, without storage tanks, pipelines, or a railroad, the local market could not use all of the oil. The railroad came to Bartlesville in 1899, and the Nellie Johnstone well opened again and eventually produced over 100,000 barrels of oil. In the ten years after the discovery of oil, Bartlesville's population grew from two hundred to over four thousand.

Wildcatters and investors flooded into Tulsa when oil was discovered in 1901 at Red Fork, a small community southwest of Tulsa. The Red Fork Field was a commercial success. Tulsa began to take shape as neighborhoods were built slightly away from the oil field on the north side of the Arkansas River. A bridge was built across the river in 1904 to provide easier access between the two communities. Tulsa soon became known as the "Oil Capital of the World."

## Something Extra!

**Charles Newton Gould, the "father of Oklahoma geology," established the first school of petroleum geology in the world at the University of Oklahoma in 1900.**







**This oil field near Bartlesville (1905), like many others throughout the state, attracted hundreds of oil men—investors, speculators, wildcatters, drillers, and teamsters.**

## Something Extra!

**Josh Cosden built Tulsa's first oil refinery and was a millionaire at 32. He is credited with building the first mansion with oil money in 1914 in Tulsa.**

Just as people had rushed to the state for land, now people rushed to the state for oil riches. Wildcatters were needed to search for the oil, and men were needed to lease land and make deals. Jobs for rig builders, pipe fitters, drillers, and roustabouts (laborers) grew as did the industry. People were needed to build storage tanks and pipelines and to supply tools and equipment. The oil field workers needed to buy food, clothes, and homes for their families. Hotels, cafes, saloons, dance halls, and pool halls instantly appeared. More people meant more schools and churches were needed, and the city of Tulsa continued to grow.

The first major oil field, the Glenn Pool, was discovered in 1905 south of Tulsa. Robert Galbreath and Frank Chesley were drilling the Ida E. Glenn No. 1 (named for the Creek woman who owned the land). Out of money, but not hope, the partners were drilling through sandstone 1,400 feet below the surface when the well started making a gurgling noise, and oil started spewing from the pipe casing. The light, "sweet" (containing less sulphur than found in "sour" oil and thus requiring less refining) oil was excellent for gasoline and kerosene.

Families from the oil fields in Illinois and Pennsylvania rushed into the booming area. Harry Sinclair, Thomas Gilcrease, William Skelly, and Harry Chapman were only a few who made their fortunes in Oklahoma. By the 1980s, the Glenn Pool field had produced over 325 million barrels of oil. Some Muscogee (Creek) Indians received large royalties from their allotments. It's been said that more money was made on the Glenn Pool field than in the California gold rush and Colorado silver rush combined.

Tom Slick, the "King of the Wildcatters," and his partner, C. B. Shaffer, drilled the discovery well for the huge Cushing-Drumright field in 1912. Word of a new oil discovery "gushed" as fast as the oil itself. Drumright sprang up overnight. The field was twelve miles east of Cushing, but the media called it the Cushing field. Other small towns such as Shamrock, Tiger Town, and Oilton popped up nearby.

# Oklahoma Profiles

## Phillips Family



### The three sons of Lewis and Lucinda

Phillips created lasting legacies from the fortunes they made in the Oklahoma oil fields. Frank and his brother Lee Eldas (L. E.) arrived in the booming oil town of Bartlesville in the early 1900s. Their business ventures ranged from barbering to banks to oil companies. Their first successful well, drilled in 1905, was the beginning of eighty-one productive wells. The brothers founded the Phillips Petroleum Company in 1917. Phillips 66 gasoline stations were added in 1927.

Frank built a mansion in Bartlesville in 1908, and he established the Woolaroc Ranch southeast of Bartlesville in 1925. The retreat evolved into a wildlife preserve and outstanding museum. Among their many philanthropic contributions, Frank and his wife, Jane, helped establish the Western History Collection at the University of Oklahoma and the Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville.

L. E. and his wife, Leonora, were active in the community of Bartlesville, and they helped with many of the civilian efforts during World War I such as the



**Woolaroc Ranch** was established in 1925 by Frank Phillips. It is now a nature preserve (above) and museum (below left).

Red Cross, Liberty Loan campaign, and the state council of defense. Under L. E.'s leadership, funds were raised to build the first bridge in Washington County.

Younger brother, Waite, soon joined Frank and L. E. in the oil fields. His success mirrored that of his brothers. Waite built several world-class buildings in downtown Tulsa,

including the Philcade and the Philtower. He and his wife, Genevieve, donated their Italian Renaissance Revival mansion and gardens to Tulsa in 1938. The Philbrook ranks as one of the top art museums in America. In 1922, Waite bought a ranch in New Mexico that he named Philmont. He made extensive developments to the mountain retreat, and he built Villa Philmont that combined their elegant, but rustic tastes. In 1938, much of the New Mexico retreat was donated to the Boy Scouts of America.



In the new oil town, workers used tents for shelter. The Blue Goose café cleared its tables at night and rented them to people to sleep on. Syrian-Lebanese and Jewish peddlers walked through the oil fields with cases of thread, fabrics, and clothing until they could afford tents in which to set up their businesses.

The Cushing field was the nation's largest oil source for eight years; at its peak in May 1915, the field produced 300,000 barrels daily. An oil glut from the Cushing field and others caused prices to tumble from over \$1 a barrel to 30 cents.

Practices of the day called for natural gas to be piped into the air or burned as waste. Oil leaked from storage pits into the soil and groundwater. It was a recipe for disaster. A major fire in the Cushing field in

1914 brought attention to the need for conservation laws and regulation of natural gas lines. Cushing, known as the "Pipeline Crossroads of the World," lives up to its title today with a maze of pipelines from all parts of the country crisscrossing the area. The Cushing hub has become the world's largest storage tank capacity for petroleum.

The discovery of the Healdton oil field in 1913 by Wirt Franklin established southern Oklahoma as a major petroleum-producing area and gave life to more boom

towns such as Ragtown and Wirt. The shallow wells and low cost of drilling were ideal for smaller operators, and the area became known as a "poor man's" field. Investors who joined Franklin included Lloyd Noble, Robert Hefner, and former Governor Haskell. Erle Halliburton established an oil well cementing company and became a leader in oil field technology.

The first drilling equipment at Healdton had to be hauled in by wagon from Ardmore or Waurika, the nearest railroad lines, until the railroad town of New Wilson was established just south of the field in 1914. New Wilson, population eight hundred, served as *drayage* (low carts that carry heavy loads) headquarters for the oil field, and five hundred teams of horses, mules, and oxen were quartered nearby.

Healdton became Oklahoma's first state-regulated oil field. Producers concerned about low petroleum purchases appealed to the state, and the Corporation Commission stepped in to order the pipeline company to purchase oil equally from the Healdton producers. The effort was a forerunner of conservation laws in many oil-producing states that prevent the waste of petroleum.



**This is the mouth of an 18-inch drilling bit hole on a derrick floor at the Drumright oil field.**

The first well was drilled in the Osage Nation in 1897, but the discovery of a field near Avant in the early 1900s brought the wildcatters to the area. When the Osage lands were allotted in 1906, one of the stipulations provided one headright for each of the original allottees for the mineral rights. A **headright** is an interest for each tribal member in the funds collected from mineral leases, sale of lands, etc. A tree in Pawhuska that provided shade for the auctions of Osage oil leases was given the name “Million Dollar Elm” by the media. Several Osage leases were auctioned for \$1,000,000 or more.

Other fields of oil in Oklahoma were developed during the early 1900s, as they continue to be today. New technology has allowed pockets of oil and natural gas to be found deep below the surface.

Oil helped provide an early economic base that spurred development in other areas. A network of travel that was more flexible than the railroad was needed.

### Building Roads

Automobiles were coming into use about the same time as many of Oklahoma’s oil fields were being developed. Railroads had altered the landscape and shaped the United States to some extent, but the automobile would prove to be an even stronger force of change. The roads or trails were mostly traveled by horse and wagon, and they were crude at best. Bridges across waterways were usually little more than mats of grass and brush. Tolls were charged for the few wooden bridges on Indian lands. Floods in 1902 swept away many of the crossings.

Recognizing the growing importance of the automobile, Sidney Suggs and others formed the Good Roads Association in the early 1900s. The first “paved” highway in the state was a few miles of gravel roadway in Watonga, built in 1909. In 1910, Oklahoma had 23 miles of hard-surfaced roadway. Suggs, at the helm of the new state highway commission, presented a plan in 1913 for six main roadways across the state. Most of the proposed roads ran roughly north and south—Newkirk to Marietta, Medford to Waurika, Bartlesville to Atoka, Miami to Durant, Beaver to Grandfield. The east-west road would extend from Muskogee to Weatherford and to the state lines. The roadways were eventually named the Albert Pike Highway, Meridian Highway, Postal Highway, T-K-O Road, Lee and Bankhead Highway, and Jefferson Road. Some of the roads paralleled the older trails such as the Texas Road, California Road, and Chisholm Trail.



**The lack of paved roads made it difficult to transport equipment into the oil fields. In the rain, roads turned into a sea of mud.**





**The coming of the automobile brought an increased demand for better roads. In this photograph, a group of farmers and businessmen are building a "good road" at Lawton.**

## Something Extra!

**The Ford Motor Company opened a plant in Oklahoma City in 1906.**

Counties and towns were largely responsible for the first roads, and they could levy (impose) taxes for them. With much area to cover, the process of building roads and bridges was slow. By the mid-1920s, 3,000 miles of official state roads were dirt or "improved dirt," 975 miles were gravel, and less than 640 miles were concrete or asphalt on concrete. Natural materials including stone were sometimes used to build bridges, and clay bricks were used for streets and sidewalks.

One active road organization named several roadways in Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico the Ozark Trail. Cyrus Avery, director of the Tulsa Commercial Club and Tulsa Automobile Club and owner of a Tulsa inn and service station, helped form the Ozark Trails Association and the Albert Pike Association.

The first federal aid road act was passed in 1916. Of the \$75 million appropriated, Oklahoma was to receive almost \$700,000 between 1917 and 1919. But America's entrance into World War I in 1917 brought most of the projects to a standstill. In spite of the shortage of building materials and manpower, a few projects were continued including some stone and concrete bridge spans. Convict laborers helped build the Jefferson Highway in eastern Oklahoma.

Roads for automobile travel across the country were sporadic and unlinked. Groups of people representing automobiles and parts manufacturers, road and bridge builders, and road material providers envisioned a system of roads that would link the nation. The groups wanted national roads that would connect states, to use existing roadways when possible, and to have federal coordination of the roads. Oklahoma's central location in the United States would prove to be valuable in the interstate roadway system, and Cyrus Avery would become a power in the national highway plan.

## It's Your Turn

- 1. What was the first major oil field in Oklahoma?**
- 2. What caused oil prices to drop in 1915?**
- 3. Why were roads troublesome in Oklahoma?**

# Section 3

## World War I

### As you read, look for

- Oklahoma's contributions to the war efforts, and
- vocabulary terms **draft**, **council of defense**, **dissenter**, **pandemic**, and **armistice**.

**For forty years, Europe had been in a state of unrest with nations** vying for power on the continent and in overseas trade. On July 28, 1914, a Serbian student assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, which sparked a war. Other European nations were quickly drawn into the conflict. The *Central Powers* were led by Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria. The *Allied Powers* included Great Britain, France, Italy, and Russia. In 1914, President



**Above:** This patriotic poster urges support for women involved in the war in Europe.

**Below:** Many more soldiers were killed in World War I than in any previous war.







Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that the United States would remain neutral.

In January 1917, Germany began a U-boat (submarine) war against all neutral merchant ships trading with Great Britain. Germany hoped to stop the flow of war supplies to the Allies and cripple the British economy before the United States became involved. After President Wilson discovered that Germany was encouraging Mexico to declare war on the United States, he asked Congress on April 6, 1917, to declare war on Germany “to make the world safe for democracy.”

## Oklahomans in the War

Congress responded immediately. The Selective Service Act authorized a **draft** (a compulsory enrollment for military service). Under three draft acts, 435,688 men were registered in Oklahoma, and 90,126 served in the armed forces, including 5,000 blacks. The state militia, already on active duty in Mexico, was rushed overseas. The Oklahoma National Guard was called out on July 5. Of those who served, 1,064 were killed in action, 710 died of disease, 502 were missing in action, and 4,154 were wounded. Nearly 10 million soldiers worldwide died during the conflict, and U.S. deaths totaled 116,516.

Camp Doniphan was set up near Fort Sill as a field artillery training base. The two camps became the “West Point of the Field Artillery,” training over 60,000 soldiers. Before serving in France, young Harry Truman, who later became president of the United States, was sent to Fort Sill for training and was given the added duty of running the camp canteen.

In the closing days of the war, nineteen Choctaw helped the American Expeditionary Force (the U.S. troops) win several key battles by talking in “code.” Messages between the Allies were being intercepted and decoded by the Germans. An officer overheard the Choctaw talking among themselves in their native language, and that became the new “code” the Allies used. The Choctaw were moved to various company headquarters, where they translated radio messages into the Choctaw language. The plan quickly worked, and the Choctaw Code Talkers received much praise.

## Council of Defense

In May 1917, states were asked to organize a state **council of defense** to coordinate publicity, food and fuel conservation, military preparedness, and campaigns for Liberty Bonds and war savings stamps. James Monroe Aydelotte chaired the Oklahoma council, and Roberta Campbell Lawson chaired the Oklahoma Woman’s Committee of National Defense. In addition to its many duties, the council



**Top:** President Woodrow Wilson.  
**Above:** Oklahoman Colonel A. W. Bloor, commanding officer of the 142nd Infantry, credited the Choctaw Code Talkers with being an important factor in success during fighting at St. Etienne, France.

organized an Oklahoma Loyalty Bureau, which was charged with locating **dissenters** (those in disagreement or opposition) and those who were disloyal to the government. About half of Oklahoma's two million people signed loyalty cards. Men suspected of being disloyal were sometimes beaten or tarred and feathered, and businesses and houses of suspected disloyal people were painted yellow.

Fearful of anything associated with Germany, Oklahoma and other states banned the speaking and teaching of the German language, and German-language newspapers were forced out of business. The names of three Oklahoma towns settled by Germans were changed—from Kiel to Loyal, Bismarck to Wright, and Korn to Corn.

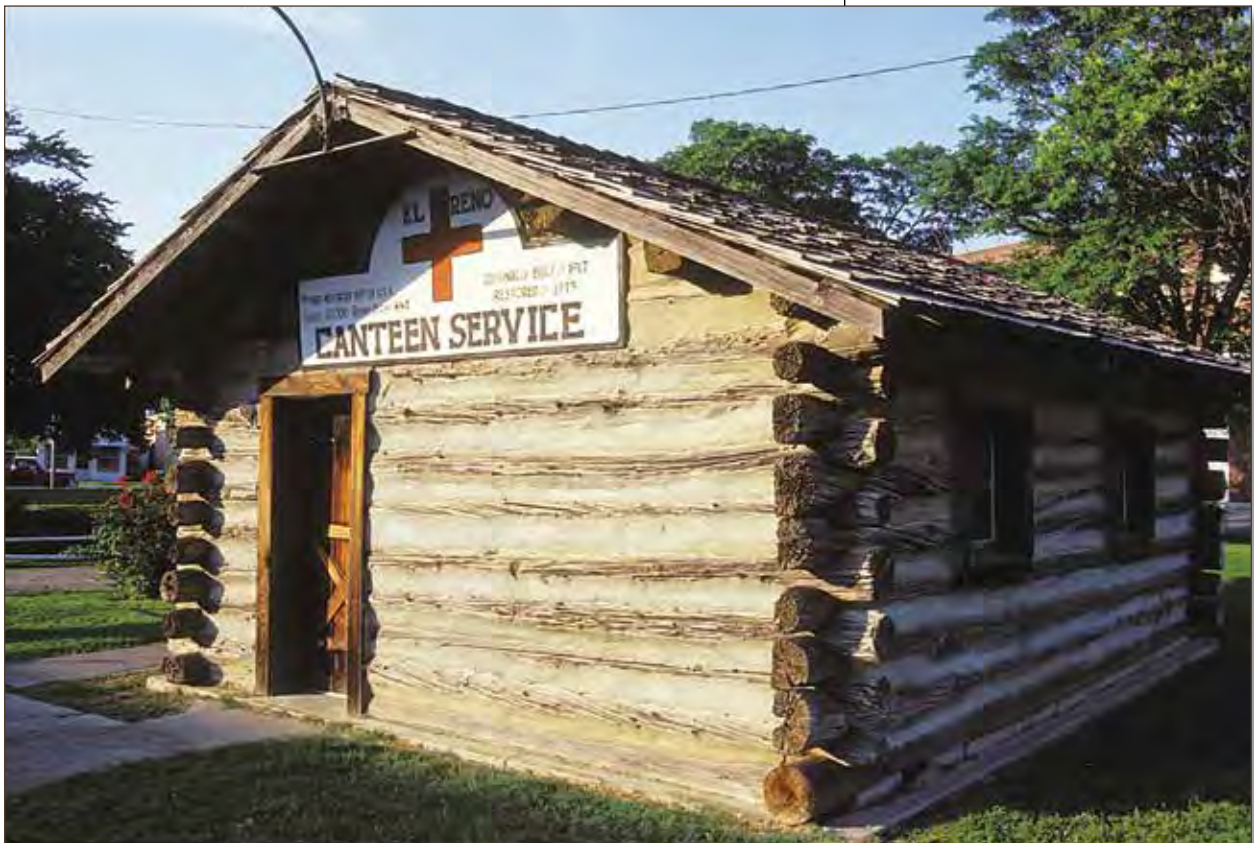
Not every young man in the United States was eager to fight in the war, and an estimated 3 million refused to register as opposed to the 24 million who did. Some hoped to get a deferral from service by getting married, and some opposed the war because of their religious beliefs.

One group of Oklahomans gained national attention when they resisted the draft in August 1917. Some farmers in the Canadian River valley refused to be drafted and leave their families. They roamed the countryside, supposedly on their way to a demonstration in Washington. This "Green Corn Rebellion" took its name from the dissenters' diet on their march. Their efforts were easily halted by the law. The group's association with the Socialist Party turned the public against the Socialists, and, by the war's end, the party was finished in Oklahoma.

## Something Extra!

The Choctaw soldiers attended radio school and worked out an elaborate scheme of identifying people and places by animals, birds, and other objects. The Code Talkers were actually using a double code.

The first Red Cross Hut was built at El Reno in 1917. These canteens served traveling soldiers during the war.







**Above:** Children dressed in World War I military uniforms wave the British and American flags to welcome a British officer to Broken Bow. **Below:** Campbell Leflore, a Choctaw, was one of many Native Americans who served their country in the war.



## The Homefront

Farmers at home prospered during the war. They were encouraged to grow as much as they could, and prices were good, compared to prewar days. Wheat was almost \$3 a bushel, corn was \$2, cotton was 50 cents a pound, and hogs were 25 cents a pound. Farmers grew castor beans, which were processed into oil for airplane engines. Young boys volunteered to harvest crops. Families grew their own “victory gardens” and endured days of no meat or foods made with wheat so the food supplies could be used for the war effort. The Miller Brothers at the 101 Ranch provided livestock to the government.

All the zinc from the smelter in the Tri-State District went to the war effort. Ore prices jumped from \$40 a ton in 1915 to \$135 a ton in 1918. Afton miners supplied lead. Oil prices rose to \$2.25 in March 1918, as supplies were shipped to the war zone. It was often said that the Allies “floated to victory on a sea of Oklahoma oil.” In reality, the Healdton field alone supplied one-half of all the oil used by the Allies. Businessmen at home signed on as “dollar-a-year men,” people who donated their time as civil servants or government officials.

With so many men serving in the military, women began working in the factories, stores, and offices. They ran streetcars, drove the first automobile canteens, and managed the Red Cross and Liberty Bond campaigns. Young girls and older women packed bandages and knitted socks, caps, and mufflers. Virtually everyone was involved in the war effort to some extent.

## Pandemic

While World War I raged in Europe, a silent killer was making its presence known worldwide. The debate still continues on the origin of the deadly outbreak that we know now as the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. (A **pandemic** is something that occurs over a wide geographic area; in this case, the world.) Possibly, troop movement in the war aided the fast-moving influenza, which erupted in pockets around the globe. Before the year was over, 675,000 Americans and somewhere between 20 and 40 million people worldwide had died from the disease. In Oklahoma, an estimated 7,000 people died, and at least 125,000 people were infected by the deadly virus. Churches, schools, and public gatherings were closed. Some communities banned funerals; others limited funeral attendance and time. The disease disappeared as mysteriously as it had appeared, but it changed families forever.

World War I and the flu pandemic ended at about the same time. On November 11, 1918, the German army surrendered, and an **armistice** (a temporary stop to the fighting) was signed. The Treaty of Versailles (a city in France) was signed on June 28, 1919, which formally ended the war.

The efforts everyone made during the war affected American attitudes. In 1919, national prohibition went into effect (the 18th Amendment), and in 1920, women received the right to vote (the 19th Amendment). In 1919, Native American veterans, if not already so designated, were given U.S. citizenship. For Indians who had not received citizenship status by military service, allotment, or special treaty, the Citizenship Act of 1924 granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States.



**The Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918 was one of the worst public health crises in U.S. history. This photograph shows a demonstration at the Red Cross Emergency Ambulance Station in Washington, D.C.**

## Something Extra!

Armistice Day was established to honor the end of World War I at the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month." Later, it was changed to Veterans Day.

## It's Your Turn

1. What led President Wilson to declare war on Germany in 1917?
2. How were the Allies able to get messages past German codebreakers?



# Chapter Review

## Chapter Summary

- Robert L. Owen and Thomas P. Gore were appointed as the first U.S. senators from Oklahoma.
- The progressive movement set the tone for the first Legislature, but racial overtones also defined the first Legislature.
- Colleges, both public and private, were established in the state.
- By 1907, the Democratic Party took control of the state, and the Socialist Party made its appearance in the state.
- African Americans' right to vote was limited by the grandfather clause, part of the Jim Crow laws. Although the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Oklahoma's efforts to limit black suffrage, Governor Robert L. Williams advocated other methods to limit the African American vote.
- Kate Barnard became the first woman in the nation to be elected to a state position, commissioner of charities and corrections. She worked tirelessly for prison and orphanage reforms.
- The capital of Oklahoma became Oklahoma City in 1910. The State Capitol was completed in 1917 without a dome because of a wartime steel shortage. The dome was finally added in 2002.
- The Oklahoma Department of Highways was established in 1911.
- With the drilling of the first commercial oil well in Bartlesville in 1897, Oklahoma's "black gold" industry began to flourish. Just as people had rushed to the state for land, now people rushed to the state for oil riches.
- The growing importance of the automobile led to the need for more and better roads and highways.
- Oklahomans responded to the demands of World War I by registering for the draft and through service in the state militia and Oklahoma National Guard. Some Oklahomans

resisted the draft, participating in the "Green Corn Rebellion."

- Hundreds of Oklahomans died from the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic, which was a worldwide silent killer.

## Vocabulary

Create a crossword puzzle using twelve of the following words. Write clues for the words.

1. armistice
2. biased
3. Commonwealth
4. conservation laws
5. de facto
6. draft
7. drayage
8. earmarked
9. gerrymandering
10. grandfather clause
11. headright
12. impeachment
13. ordinance
14. pandemic
15. roustabouts
16. taxes
17. tsunami

## Understanding the Facts

1. Name three actions taken by the first Legislature.
2. What was the original name of Oklahoma State University?
3. How did the Oklahoma Legislature try to limit the voting rights of African Americans?
4. Who was the state's first commissioner of charities and corrections?
5. What year was the state capital moved to Oklahoma City?
6. What unique feature was missing from the original State Capitol building?

7. Who was responsible for opening the Cushing-Drumright oil field?
8. What was the length and location of the first paved highway in the state?
9. What kinds of work did women do during World War I?

### Developing Critical Thinking

1. Why did the Socialist Party gain a foothold in Oklahoma?
2. Explain how the passage of Jim Crow laws affected the lives of African Americans during the early years of statehood.
3. Would the Oklahoma Legislature be allowed to pass special laws to govern a particular group of citizens today? Explain your answer.
4. Take a stand on one of the following statements and explain your position.
  - a. Government is justified in suppressing disagreement or opposition to involvement in war during wartime.
  - b. It is a violation of the right of freedom of speech for the government to suppress disagreement or opposition to involvement in war during wartime.
5. Explain how World War I helped the cause of woman's suffrage.

### Applying Your Skills

1. Interview a person in your community who remembers the time period when the Jim Crow laws were still in effect in Oklahoma. Ask them to recall what it was like during that period of time and ask them to give examples.
2. On an outline map of Oklahoma mark the general location of the major oil fields that were discovered in Oklahoma between 1905 and 1930. (Refer to Chapter 15 for oil fields developed after 1916.)
3. Imagine you are a German farmer living in western Oklahoma during World War I. Write a letter to a relative describing the changes in your life since the war began.

### Exploring Technology

1. World War I spurred many technological advances: in medicine, in communications, in aviation, and in armament. Choose one of these areas and prepare a report on the advances made during and immediately following the war.
2. Using your favorite Internet search engine, research the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918. Using a spreadsheet, make a chart showing the number of deaths that occurred in the United States and countries in Europe at this time.

## Building Skills

## Distinguishing Fact from Opinion

**A fact can be proven by examining it against other information or by your own observations or research.** For example, "Eighteen-year-old U.S. citizens have the right to vote" is a statement of fact. This can be proven by reading the Twenty-sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

An *opinion* is something a person thinks, believes, or feels is true. For example, "A person should not be allowed to vote until she or he is twenty-one years old" is a statement of opinion. This may be the way someone feels. It may be shared by others, but it is a personal opinion.

Examine the following statements. Which of the statements are facts, and which are opinions?

1. In a democracy, workers should gain control of the government and use it to change the free enterprise system.
2. The Socialist Party of the early 1900s had ties to communism.
3. In the November 1912 election, Socialist Party presidential candidate Eugene Debs received over 16 percent of the votes in Oklahoma.
4. Those who took part in the Green Corn Rebellion were planning a seditious rebellion against the federal government.
5. At least one hundred Socialists were elected to local, township, and county offices in Oklahoma in 1914.