Dear Santa:
We appreciate all the new industries you brought Oklahoma in 1952 and are glad you're going to bring her four new lodges for her state parks next year. This year we'd like...
Glass Company Readying Okmulgee Branch Plant

Okmulgee has been selected as the site for a new glass plant which will employ 75 persons.

Equipment for the new plant, a branch of H. Perilstein, Inc., of Philadelphia, is being shipped in. It will be installed in the Frisco Freight building, on which the company has taken a long term lease. If no delays are encountered in installing machinery, company officials hope their Okmulgee branch will be in operation by the first of the year.

State's Lettuce Crop Processed

An Altus potato processing plant did double duty this year; it was used to process the area's first commercial lettuce crop.

The plant, which is owned by George Elliott, started processing lettuce late in October, and continued through November. Twenty persons were employed at the plant, and eight more were used in harvesting the lettuce.

The lettuce was trimmed, washed and packed in crushed ice. The plant had its own crushing machine, used about 20,000 pounds of ice a day.

Four dozen heads of lettuce were packed in each crate. Crates sold for about $5 each. Boxes were also made at the processing plant.

Elliott and another Altus man, Gene Cash, grew 60 acres of lettuce in the Lugert-Altus irrigation district. It was planted August 13, 20 and 27 in three 20-acre patches, and was watered four times.

State Helps Observe Louisiana Purchase

A commission to plan Oklahoma's part in the 150th anniversary celebration of the Louisiana Purchase has been named by Governor Murray.

Morton Harrison, chairman of the planning and resources board, heads the commission, which will cooperate with Louisiana in arranging the celebration. Other members are Boyd Cowden, Chandler, Ray Fine, Gore, and Everett Collins, Sapulpa, all senators; and Otis Munson, Newton, Don Dale, Guymon, and Jim Nance, Purcell, representatives.

The celebration will be held in Louisiana in 1953. The Oklahoma commission will have the job of stressing the growth and accomplishments of Oklahoma since it became a part of the United States in 1803. All the state except the Panhandle was included in the Louisiana Purchase.

"Southern Belle" New Grand Lake Excursion Boat

A $100,000 excursion boat with accommodations for 300 or more people is now under construction at Groveport docks, near Grove. When it is launched, probably by April 1, it will be the largest craft afloat on Grand Lake.

A group of resort operators on the Honey Creek arm of the lake and Grove businessmen have incorporated to build the new tourist attraction. Operating as Honey Creek Enterprises, Inc., they will launch a large-scale advertising campaign to make known the recreational opportunities offered by the boat.

The "Southern Belle," as it will be christened, will be built in the style of the old Mississippi paddle wheelers. It will be 30 feet wide and 72 feet long, with a double deck to provide 4,200 square feet of space.

The style, however, will be the only thing old-fashioned about it. The boat will be of all steel, fireproof construction, and will be driven by Diesel engines, at speeds up to 15 knots an hour.

In addition to regularly-scheduled daily sightseeing cruises, the Southern Belle will be available for parties and dancing one or two nights a week, and will cater to groups such as school parties and Senior Day trippers who want to charter it.

A speed boat and several small motor boats providing passenger rides will be operated in connection with it.

Our Cover

The letter to Santa on our cover this month is principally an attempt to be seasonal, but whether Santa brought them or not, Oklahoma has certainly had her share of new industries in 1952, and industrial expansion promises to extend into 1953. (Photo by Casey Petrauskas, Planning Board photographer.)
New Corrugater Ups Production At Box Company

A $385,000 expansion program which doubled the capacity of the South West Box Company at Sand Springs has been completed and the plant is getting its increased production in full swing.

Largest single item added in the expansion was a $300,000 corrugating machine which turns out cardboard up to 85 inches wide. Paper from three rolls spins onto the machine, and comes out in an endless strip of corrugated board which is automatically cut into the proper lengths. The machine is capable of turning out corrugated board at the rate of a carload an hour.

The new machine, which is 291 feet long, is equipped with a new type boiler, patterned after that of Diesel locomotives, to furnish high-pressure steam.

Increased production which this new machine makes possible has meant necessary installation of other machinery, too. This includes new starch-mixing equipment to supply twice as much adhesive as was previously needed, and additional folding and stitching equipment. Another large press to handle printing the boxes is also on order.

Expansion program will eventually mean about 50 new workers will be hired in the finishing department.

A new building 320 by 50 feet was added to house the corrugating machine. An improved loading dock will also be built, and the present machine shop moved to another building.

A branch of the Hoerner Corp., Keokuk, Iowa, South West supplies corrugated boxes to Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Colorado and New Mexico from its Sand Springs plant.

The Cherokee general Stand Watie was the last Confederate general to lay down his arms at the end of the Civil War.

Mrs. Louis Severns shows off a pair of the chinchillas that are the basis of a fast-growing new Oklahoma industry. The little animals cost from $1500 to $2000 a pair.

Chinchillas Fast-Growing New Oklahoma Industry

Chinchilla breeding is a new industry to Oklahoma, as it is to the rest of the country, but growing interest in the profitable little animal indicates it’s going to become more and more important on a national scale, and that Oklahoma is getting in on the ground floor.

Mrs. Louis H. Severns, publicity director of the Chinchilla Association of America’s Oklahoma branch, reports there are now about 100 chinchilla breeders in the state.

Mrs. Severns, who owns and operates the Blue Veil Chinchilla Ranch, Oklahoma City, is a typical Oklahoma chinchilla breeder. Starting three years ago with three pairs, she now has 18 pairs.

Like all chinchilla ranchers, she is loud in singing the praises of the little animals with the luxurious fur. They are easy to care for, inexpensive to raise, have no odor, and carry no vermin or parasites. Nor is expensive equipment necessary; their cages can be placed in the garage, attic or basement. An enthusiastic booster of the industry, Mrs. Severns holds open house every Sunday at her chinchilla ranch, two and a half miles south of 59th and South May.

Chinchilla raisers are helping rouse interest with their collective activities, as well as with their individual enthusiasm. Next major event the C. A. A. is sponsoring is a chinchilla show in Oklahoma City, January 31-February 1.

Just how profitable chinchilla raising can be is indicated by current prices. A pair costs from $1500 to $2000. A chinchilla coat (there are only forty in the world) requires between 125 and 150 pelts, and costs from $35,000 up.

Chinchilla hair is finer than silk; 80 minute hairs grow from each follicle. It is soft and warm, and the color is impossible to duplicate. The demand for the fur is so far ahead of the supply that it is doubtful that it can be met in the next 20 years. It will be about eight years before there are enough chinchillas in this country even to start pelting; all raised now are sold for breeding purposes.
Maybe Santa Claus wasn't entirely responsible for the growth of industry in Oklahoma in 1952; hard-working chambers of commerce, the Planning Board's campaign to advertise nationally the state's industrial advantages, and a growing realization, in the state and out, that Oklahoma is ideally located and amply endowed with the natural and human resources to become a great industrial state probably had more to do with it.

But whatever the reason, 1952 has been a banner year for Oklahoma industry. Large concerns from eastern industrial areas have located branch plants in the state; native Oklahomans have opened new manufacturing concerns, both large and small; and plants already operating have been expanded.

Space available in this issue is too limited to cover this year's industrial growth; the new and expanded industries mentioned are just examples of the sort of thing that's going on all over the state.

Biggest boom came in the Grand River Dam Authority area, near Pryor. There two new $4 million mills, National Gypsum Co. and Certain-Teed Products Corp., are making gypsum board liner paper. Construction is underway on a $20 million John Deere plant to make chemicals used in fertilizer.

One of the new industries is Metal Craftsmen, Inc., at Ponca City, which is devoted entirely to defense production. Working on sub-contracts for major aircraft companies, the new industry already has more than 100 employees and did a million-dollar volume of business its first year in existence.

Occupying two hangars at the north edge of the Ponca City airport, it turns out landing gear doors, wing panels, liner assemblies, an entire tail assembly for a small liaison aircraft and dozens of other parts and small assemblies.

At Perry, a nationally-known pottery manufacturing plant closed for two and a half months now has a new owner and is reopened. Tamac Pottery Co. has been purchased by Earl R. Bechtold, and Henry C. Tate, father of the former owner, is plant foreman. Mrs. Tate and Mrs.
Bechtold, who are sisters, operate the retail store.

The Duncan Paving Co., which got in operation in August, is turning out asphaltic concrete at the rate of 60 to 80 tons an hour. The plant and equipment, which cost around $100,000, is owned by Lawrence Haas, Duncan building contractor. The mixer resembles a huge threshing machine and weighs almost 50 tons. First paving using materials from the new plant was laid early in September.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Braman, owners of the Braman Manufacturing Company, moved to Ada from Kansas this year, and are well pleased with their new location. Their product, the Russell Sun-N-Air clothes dryer-heater-cooler, was described in the November Resourceful Oklahoma.

Shawnee's newest industry was the brainchild of Dick Crawford, a hometown oilfield machinist. The Crawford Products Co. specializes in rebuilding crankshafts. These expensive engine parts are sent to Shawnee from all over twelve states. There they are checked to be sure they're not cracked, a special alloy is welded in to build up the worn spots, the entire crankshaft is heated to turn it into a single unit, and the bearing surfaces are machined down to factory specifications.

The Crawford company can rebuild a crankshaft so it is good as new for considerably less money than a new one would cost; for example, an automobile crankshaft that would cost $60 new can be rebuilt for $30. On big engine shafts, savings are even larger. They cost from $2,000 to $2,500 new, and can be rebuilt for $600. Further, some of them are irreplaceable, since engines are still used that are no longer built.

There are five men working at Crawford's plant now, and at the rate business is pouring in, more will probably be employed soon.

Construction began early in September on Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company's new technical center at Duncan. Over a hundred engineers, chemists and other technical personnel will work there when it is completed. Occupying a six-acre tract, the Technical Center will house engineering, laboratory and research facilities. First structure will be the two-story brick Engineering Laboratory Building, with a wing specially designed for chemical research.

Halliburton's also is building a 200 by 240-foot steel and concrete warehouse, equipped with mechanical handling machinery for time-saving loading and unloading. Completion date is February 1, 1953.
Cities Service Plans Tulsa Research Lab

Cities Service Research and Development Co., New York City, is establishing a laboratory in Tulsa. Lease for the new concern, which will bring about 15 new families to Tulsa, has been signed by company officials. The laboratory will do research work in connection with crude oil exploration and development problems.

The company has leased 7,000 square feet in a Tulsa building which it expects to occupy about March 1, after remodeling is completed.

New Sunco Plant to Employ Ten People

A new manufacturing plant which will employ ten people has been located in Oklahoma City by the Sunco Window and Awning Company, Inc., which has its headquarters in Kansas City, Mo.

Sunco manufactures and distributes aluminum awnings and storm and screen windows.

Products of the Oklahoma City plant are the Wiseo aluminum storm windows and Ron-Del folding aluminum awnings.

Food Laboratory Is Opened at Muskogee

A new food testing laboratory to meet the needs of Oklahoma's fast-growing canning industry has been opened at Muskogee by the State Board of Health.

The new lab, an expansion of a branch laboratory already located there, will check Oklahoma-grown foodstuffs both before and after canning to be sure it complies with pure food laws.

The Oklahoma Historical Society museum has the largest collection of Indian archives found anywhere except the Smithsonian Museum.

The old Union Agency building for the Five Civilized Tribes can still be seen at Muskogee.

Bermuda Sprig Planter Made By Tulsa Firm

An Oklahoma-made product with world-wide distribution is the automatic bermuda sprig planter manufactured by the H. L. Pray Manufacturing Co. of Tulsa.

Working from a model prepared by the Soil Conservation Service, Harley L. Pray, president of the company, turned out his first sprig planter in 1949. Since that time, he has sold hundreds of the machines to soil conservation districts, individual landowners and bermuda planting contractors, and has sent three to a British government agency doing re-vegetation work in Africa.

The tractor-pulled machine takes all the back-breaking work from bermuda sodding; it opens furrows, spaces the sprigs, spreads fertilizer and closes and packs the furrow.

A two-row planter, such as Pray originally built for the SCS, costs from $1000 to $1100. He later developed a one-row planter for smaller plots which sells for from $400 to $525, depending on the accessories.

Threshed bermuda sprigs are placed in the machine. A spiked conveyor pulls sprigs into the feeder, where they are broken and separated by the distributor. A chute guides them into the furrow. Discs behind the chute exit cover the sprigs, and packer wheels tamp the soil on the roots.

In addition to its principal use, sodding bermuda pastures, the machine is used in conservation work, to landscape large housing projects, to sod football fields, and other such projects.

Pray was formerly president of the Tulsa Winch Manufacturing Corp., and founded his new company after he came out of a two-year retirement in 1947.

Fort Gibson was an important river town when steamboats plied the Arkansas River.

Indian Hall of Fame Board is Organized

N. B. Johnston, president of the National Congress of American Indians, has been elected president of the board of directors of the National Hall of Fame for American Indians.

The Hall of Fame will feature bronze and stone busts and plaques honoring outstanding Indians which will be placed on a ten-acre plot of ground near Anadarko. One of the first acts of the new organization was to name Black Beaver, Indian scout who helped white settlers develop the area, to be so honored.

Officers elected at the organizational meeting, in addition to Johnston, are Floyd Maytnnbby, first vice president; Miss Muriel Wright, second vice president; Tully Morrison, secretary; and Fisher Muldrow, treasurer.

Morton Harrison, Planning Board chairman, was named an executive director and a member of the advertising committee.

The Indian Hall of Fame, with its great historical significance, is expected to be an important tourist attraction.

Fancy Nylon Aprons Are Poteau Product

Poteau's newest manufactured product is a line of hand made, distinctively styled fancy nylon tea aprons.

Owner, business manager, saleswoman, and almost the entire staff is Mrs. Earl McCafferty, who began production in a small way last summer with two bolts of material.

Working in her home with one assistant, she can now turn out about twenty aprons a day.

The aprons are already being sold in Fort Smith and Oklahoma City, and Mrs. McCafferty is contacting New York City buyers. If sufficient markets can be secured, she hopes to expand her plant and hire more helpers.
New Chemical Company Doing Research Work

A new chemical engineering and manufacturing firm which will place particular emphasis on working out new end processes for Oklahoma raw materials has been established in Oklahoma City.

The new firm, called the DanCu Chemical Co., is expected to employ a number of chemists, technicians and skilled workers when operations get underway.

Occupying 15,000 square feet of floor space, the company has an investment of $100,000 in buildings and equipment. Plant includes the most modern laboratory equipment and instrumentation machine shop, and a warehouse.

An unusual feature is the company’s patent process division. Individuals outside the firm can submit their inventions and ideas for testing and development through DanCu’s facilities. If they prove to be feasible, the inventor will participate in the profits.

Principal work of the company, however, is chemical engineering and design for the petroleum industry, and analytical, consulting, and manufacturing chemists, including process engineering and design.

George W. “Dan” Cupit, Jr., is president of the new firm. Other officers are Otto Pluess III, vice-president; and Otto Pluess, secretary-treasurer.

An expansion program into other states, with Oklahoma serving as headquarters, is seen by company officials.

OG&E Booklet Tells State’s Advantages

A brochure outlining the advantages to industry of locating in Oklahoma has been published by the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co. for distribution to industries which may be interested in the state.

Fire Fighters Watchful As Drouth Dries Forest

Protecting Oklahoma’s forests from fires, always a big responsibility, has become a nerve-wracking, back-breaking, twenty-four-hours-a-day job during this year’s record-breaking drouth.

Don Stauffer, director of the Planning and Resources Board’s Division of Forestry, reports that 150 men have been on the job in the protected area in southeastern Oklahoma throughout this crucial period. Working round the clock, they raked fire trails and set backfires to bring under control a series of blazes that could have caused tremendous loss of Oklahoma’s timber resources and grass lands.

Though crews worked in shifts, allowing time off for rest occasionally, some firefighters stayed on the job 30 hours or longer at a stretch, without pay for overtime.

Adding to the difficulties of the fire crews was smoke which hovered over the area, cutting visibility from the towers to 200 yards. An airplane was used for patrol work for ten days, but part of the time it was necessary to wait till night to spot the blazes, giving them an all-day start.

Most tragic aspect of the waste of timber and grass caused by the fires, and the man-hours lost fighting them, was the fact they could have been prevented, Stauffer said. Intentional or not, they were all caused by people; there has been no lightning to start fires.

In spite of the tinder-box condition of the forest and range, fires so far have been brought under control with losses much smaller than were suffered by some other states. Since October 1, there have been approximately 150 fires, burning about 9,000 acres.

Forestry officials are appealing to people in the area to be extremely careful with fire; they’re also standing by 24 hours a day to get on the job immediately if someone isn’t.

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worth to be remembered.—Daniel Webster.

Roman Nose State Park was a favorite camping place of Roman Nose, famous Cheyenne chief.
Semi-Centennial Plans Underway

A proposal for a $250,000 appropriation to finance a summer-long observance of Oklahoma's 50th anniversary has been approved by the Legislative Council.

Though the 1957 anniversary is still four years away, plans are already getting underway to make the state-wide observance equal to the Texas Centennial of the '30's.

Proposed legislation approved by the council was prepared by Rep. Lou Allard, Drumright. In addition to the appropriation, it called for turning the preliminary planning over to the Planning and Resources Board, and creation of an advisory committee to function until a full-time organization is established by the 1955 legislature. The committee, headed by the governor, would include representatives from the Oklahoma State Fair Association, the Historical Society, American Indian Exposition, Oklahoma Industrial Board, and creation of an advisory council was established by the Oklahoma State Fair.

Tentative plans call for a celebration from April to November in all state cities, reaching a climax after the Oklahoma State Fair.

New Tulsa Families Pass Total for '51

Total number of new families moving to Tulsa during 1952 passed the 1951 total in nine months, according to records kept by the Chamber of Commerce.

By October 1, 2,884 families established utility connections. The total for 1951 was 2,541.

Heaviest month this year was September, when 455 new arrivals were reported. June ranked second, with 443.

Collectors Seek State Woman's Original Dolls

Original dolls created by an Oklahoma farm wife, Mrs. Hazel Cochran of Rattan, are finding their way into collections all over the world. Demand for the unusual dolls is becoming so great a gift shop owner recently placed an order for two hundred. Mrs. Cochran turned it down, however, because she isn't ready for mass production.

Mrs. Cochran combines doll-making with running her farm home and caring for her four children. Her husband, O. D. Cochran, a sawmill employee, helps by carving props for the character dolls. Her father, Roy Kerr, also carves props.

The dolls are lifelike reproductions of the Kiamichi mountain people among whom Mrs. Cochran has spent her life. They are made of cotton hose, bits of cotton, a little baling wire, and scraps of cloth. Facial expressions and features are drawn in with thread. When the faces are finished, Mrs. Cochran applies a coat of shellac to make them permanent.

Frames are of baling wire, leaving the figures pliable, so they can be arranged in characteristic poses.

In addition to individual dolls, Mrs. Cochran creates groups of figures. Typical of these are her four old farmers engaged in a card game. Her next project is going to be a mountain wedding scene.

Mrs. Cochran's largest doll is a life-size figure dressed in the style of the 1870's, which she calls Aunt Lucinda.

Mrs. Cochran's dolls were judged the best collection at a national hobby show in Chicago last summer.

Water Supply Hit By Drouth

The record-breaking drouth of this summer and autumn may have serious effects on next summer's surface water supplies in Oklahoma.

The Division of Water Resources has warned that storm runoff, needed to replenish storage in reservoirs and lakes, does not normally occur during the winter months. This means that nearly all of Oklahoma's major reservoirs, particularly in the western areas of the state, will enter 1953 with critically low water supplies.

Water storage in Lake Texoma during October was depleted to the lowest stage since it was first filled in March, 1945. The remaining storage in Lake Altus has been reserved for municipal use by the City of Altus.

In spite of the lack of rainfall, some of the streams show some recovery in flows following the early killing frost and the end of the growing season. Flows have increased in the upper Washita River and have relieved the critical water situation, for the present at least, at Anadarko and Chickasha. Flows in the Washita near its mouth, however, set a record low for the third successive month.

Rare Mastadon Bone Found in Oklahoma

A bone from a prehistoric animal, the mastadon, estimated at between 20,000 and 40,000 years old, has been discovered on the Arkansas River in northeastern Oklahoma.

The mastadon femur was the first ever found in the state, according to Dr. J. Willis Stovall, director of the University of Oklahoma museum, who made the identification.