

"This way, all would have the opportunity to learn and earn more quickly."

Dale Hughey, former Oklahoma Vocational-Technical coordinator

The First

Years

world class training for decades

CANADIAN VALLEY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Significant Days in the Valley 4

Minutes: The First Board of Education Meeting (February 1, 1968) 5

Tech Reflections: Marvin Novak 6

Grady County Enters The Picture 8

Tech Reflections: Donna Von Tungeln 11

Tech Reflections: Dr. Roy Peters 14

Program Addition Timeline 18

Tech Reflections: George Tiner 19

The Chickasha Campus 21

Tech Reflections: Harold Smith & Robert McClain 24

The El Reno Campus 28

Tech Reflections: Bill Hulsey 31

Tech Reflections: C.J. Hansen 33

Tech Reflections: Rhonda Reheman 36

Tech Reflections: Clark McCaskill 39

Tech Reflections: Susan Hardy Brooks 41

Q and A with Dr. Phil Berkenbile 42

Tech Reflections: Patrick McGregor 43

A Letter From Dr. Greg Winters, Superintendent 45

Special Tribute: Dr. Earl Cowan 46

This Brochure:
 Canadian Valley is proud of its 40-year history dating back to the election of five board members and the formation of a tech school district in 1968. We hope you will enjoy the historical news, photos and accounts, which together clearly illustrate the remarkable impact this school has enjoyed in the Canadian Valley region of central Oklahoma.

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On the cover:

The North Canadian River runs through the heart of the northern edge of the Canadian Valley school district. Pictured is the river in north Yukon at Express Ranches.

Credits:

Brochure design: Bill Kramer
Tech Reflections: Kelly Arnold, Bill Kramer, Erica Miller, Deirdre Steiner
Special Thanks: Melissa Briggs, Diane Edwards, Linda Laverty



Jimmie Vickrey
 Board President

2



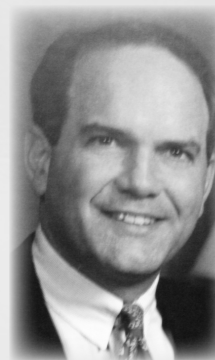
Dick McCalla
 Board Vice President

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George Fina
 Board Clerk

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Dr. Sid Vaught
 Board Deputy Clerk

8



Greg LaPat
 Board Member

"It wasn't just short meetings. We had no idea what it took to make a Vo-Tech school, because there was nobody around to show us. We didn't have any money. We borrowed money so we could operate."

C.J. Hansen

The Early Days: 1968

Administrators at eight area high schools lacked the necessary space and staff to offer multiple career training options for students in the so-called Canadian Valley region of central Oklahoma (between the North and South Canadian rivers).

In 1966 Oklahoma voters approved SQ 434, which permits one or more school districts to form a single vocational district, each to be governed by its own elected vocational board and all expected to build and maintain area vocational-technical schools.

The school officials called for an election in January 1968 so the electorate could select five qualified board members to oversee development of Oklahoma's sixth area vocational-technical school.

The first organizational meeting of the Area Vocational-Technical School District No. 6 board of education convened Feb. 1, 1968 at the El Reno Courthouse (see *first board minutes on Page 5*). The board did not have a regular meeting place until July 1968. It was agreed subsequent meetings would take place at each of the local public school locations on a rotational basis.

Zone 1 member Marvin Novak was elected as the board's first president. Though he served the board faithfully until leaving the state in February 1969, Novak (pronounced KNOW-vok) said he almost didn't even get his name on the ballot.

"You had to register at the Capitol," he said. "On the last day you could file, I made it 15 minutes before the end of the filing period."

Novak and fellow original board of education member C.J. Hansen both admit they had no idea what they were getting themselves into by agreeing to take seats on the board.

"The first year we had 56 meetings," Hansen said. "Basically, we started from scratch. It wasn't just short meetings. We had no idea what it took to make a Vo-Tech school, because there was nobody around to show us. We didn't have any money. We borrowed money so we could operate."



Marvin Novak
First Board of
Education President



C.J. Hansen
One of founding
board members

HOW CANADIAN VALLEY CAME TO BE

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE VALLEY..

* **1966:** Oklahoma area technical schools were created in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa under local boards of education.

* **January 23, 1968:** Administrators at eight neighboring school districts (Bethany, Calumet, El Reno, Minco, Mustang, Piedmont, Union City and Yukon) moved to ask voters on this date to establish an area school board that would oversee development of the state's sixth area vocational-technical school. The school would teach highly desirable trade skills to its high school students for a half-day.

* **April 23, 1968:** A 3.5 mill (3.5 one-thousandths of a dollar) operational levy was passed by 87 percent of the electorate (1,167 in favor and 160 opposed). Canadian Valley's board of education then pursued a short-term 1.5 mill bond issue levy that later passed in May 1969 (1,357 in favor and 264 opposed).

* **June 7, 1968:** The board of education chose a 60-acre tract of farmland (\$1,000 per acre) belonging to Walter Evans as the location for the El Reno campus. Also, J.R. Gililand was chosen as the director/superintendent of the school at a salary of \$16,000, plus a \$3,600 car allowance, a gasoline credit card, telephone credit card, an expense account and moving expenses from Clinton to El Reno.

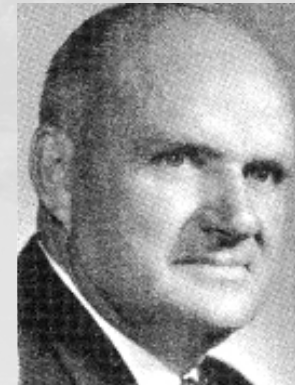
* **July 18, 1968:** A suitable office space was chosen for J.R. Gililand and two support staff at the Grady Timberlake Building, 217 N. Bickford, in El Reno.

* **February 20, 1969:** State Vo-Tech office employee Garvin Isaacs provided a report that six schools in Grady County, including Chickasha, sought an April 1 election that enabled them to join Canadian Valley's technical school district. A satellite campus was planned that would accommodate students in Grady County.

* **April 21, 1969:** The board of education hired the school's first assistant superintendents. R. Leo Carden was employed for El Reno and Ernest Andrews for the satellite school. A decision was also made to build an 80,000 square-foot campus in El Reno and a 20,000 square-foot facility in Chickasha.

* **February. 25, 1970:**

A planned purchase of property from the Chickasha Industrial Foundation fell through, so the board instead purchased a 6-acre site belonging to Lena Austin (cost was \$2,500 per acre).



Ernest Andrews

*First Chickasha Campus
Assistant Superintendent*



Robert L. Carden

*First El Reno Campus
Assistant Superintendent*

* **March 12, 1970:** Earl Cowan, welding instructor, was one of

10 instructors approved for employment. Cowan worked for Canadian Valley until his retirement, September 1, 2008. The Dr. Earl Cowan Campus (SW 15 & Czech Hall Road) was named in honor of his outstanding contributions to the school, which included serving 24 years as superintendent.

* **March 24, 1970:** John Nelson was appointed as the board member from Zone 3, which includes Chickasha, Am-Po, Friend and Alex school districts. Nelson would serve 36 years, the most among board members in the school's history.

Minutes: First Meeting of the Board of Education

7:30 p.m., Feb. 1, 1968, El Reno County Courthouse

- * The meeting was called to order by Dale A. Hughey, State Coordinator, Area Vocational-Technical School District Education. Garvin A. Issacs, Assistant State Coordinator, acted as recorder.
- * An explanation of the Vocational Education Act of 1963 was given by Mr. Hughey to the newly elected board members. The members present were:
 - * Zone 1: C.J. Hansen Jr., Calumet; Zone 2: Marvin L. Novak, Yukon; Zone 3: J.C. (Jess) Roberts, El Reno; Zone 4: James S. Gibson, El Reno; Zone 5: Charline Von Tungeln, Calumet
- * Mr. Hughey explained the history of preparation for the establishment of area vocation-technical schools in Oklahoma. The state law providing the establishment of area schools was also discussed.
- * The oath of office and loyalty oaths were administered by Mr. Hughey to the elected board members, and he declared them the legal entity of this vocational-technical school district.
- * Mr. Hughey acted as chairman for the election of president of the board. Marvin L. Novak was nominated for president by Mrs. Von Tungeln. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen; the motion carried 4-0.
- * Mr. Novak then presided for the election of vice president and clerk. J.C. (Jess) Roberts nominated James S. Gibson for vice president. Mr. Hansen moved that nominations cease and that Mr. Gibson be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Von Tungeln; the motion carried 4-0.
- * Mrs. Herbert A. Von Tungeln was nominated for clerk by Mr. Gibson. Mr. Hansen moved that nominations cease and that Mrs. Von Tungeln be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts; the motion carried 4-0.
- * Packets were handed out to each board member and each item in the packet was briefly discussed by Mr. Hughey. He also discussed the criteria for selecting a site and employing a superintendent.
- * The amount of the levy to be voted -- on or after July 1, 1968 -- was discussed. It was suggested that the superintendent not be employed until after the vote on the operational levy.
- * Mr. Hughey suggested that the alternate system of bookkeeping be used. The employment of an auditor and treasurer for the district was discussed.
- * A motion was made by Mr. Hansen and Mrs. Von Tungeln that the minutes of the meeting be mailed to each school superintendent in the area school district.
- * It was recommended by Mr. Hughey that the school superintendents be invited to meet with the area board.
- * A motion was made by Mr. Hansen that the board meet at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 13, at the courthouse in El Reno. The motion carried.

DID YOU KNOW?

Dale Hughey, the state's first coordinator for Vocational-Technical training guided Canadian Valley's first board through the steps necessary to establish a tech district. Highlights of one of his early addresses to the board:

"In 1966 the people of Oklahoma voted for Area Vo-Tech schools for the purpose of helping receive training for salable skills. It was not conceived as a poverty program or to compete with colleges. The idea was to make the program available for a half day for interested high school students (juniors, seniors and in some cases sophomores), adults and post-high school. High school students would have regular academic work and extra-curricular activities at their high school. This way, all would have the opportunity to learn and earn more quickly!"



TECH REFLECTIONS: MARVIN NOVAK

Marvin Novak's passion for Canadian Valley didn't stop when he left the board of education and moved out of state in February 1969.

Novak moved to Paris, Texas, where he worked for Ford Motor Co. He returned to the Sooner State in 1972 and wound up volunteering his services once again to the patrons of the Canadian Valley school district.

He continues today serving on the school's Foundation Board, which was incorporated in 1984 to enhance vocational education opportunities for CareerTech students.

"Two or three years ago, C.J. (Hansen) called me and wanted me to be on the Foundation. We were the two kids – you always have a couple pups with the old dogs, and that was us."

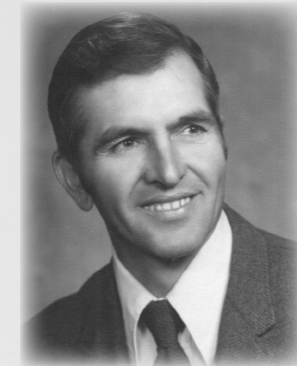
Novak said the first Canadian Valley Board of Education was forced to learn on the go. And it was on the go plenty.

"We took a trip to Los Angeles, because we didn't know what a vo-tech looked like," he said. "We knew what the locals looked like. We didn't want it to look like that. The only place was California. We went to L.A. and went into one of the huge vo-techs in L.A.

"They had a working agreement much better. A common labor person had to have some vo-tech education before they could go to work. We patterned that very much after what we saw in California. We had the foresight to move on instead of being satisfied with what we've got going on."

"We took a trip to Los Angeles, because we didn't know what a vo-tech looked like. We knew what the locals looked like. We didn't want it to look like that!"

Marvin Novak



Marvin Novak
First Board of
Education President

Site For Vo-Tech School Approved

8/29/68

Official state approval for a site for the Canadian Valley Area Vocational-Technical School was announced Thursday morning at a regular meeting of the vo-tech school board.

The final okay was given for a 60-acre site four miles east of El Reno at a cost of \$60,000. The location was the board's first choice in recommendations made to the state vo-tech department.

Temporary appropriations were also approved by the board and the meeting included discussion of a bond issue which will be required for capital expenditures.

After the announcement of approval for purchase of 60 acres of land owned by Walter Evans at \$1,000 per acre, the board gave its approval for the temporary appropriations which showed a total of \$229,000 for the center's estimated needs.

The figures showed \$40,000 for current expense with a present request of \$10,000, and an estimated need of \$189,000 for capital outlay and a request for \$47,250.

The board members also discussed a bond issue which will be needed for capital expenditures at a later date and the amounts mentioned at the meeting ranged from 1 1/4 million dollars to 1 3/4 million dollars.

A bond issue date and the exact amount will not be determined until after extensive surveys are made of the needs of the school. Construction and architectural needs will also be studied prior to a bond issue election.

Selection of an architect is expected within the next month and the bond issue may be called within the next eight months, according to J. R. Gililand, director for the school.

It was disclosed at the 7:30 a.m. meeting that state matching funds for capital outlay should start about July of 1969. The area school district will furnish

TECH ARCHIVES:

funds for a large portion of the building costs while state funds will be used to furnish equipment, plus a smaller portion of construction costs.

Gililand told the board that the state plans to control all of the major equipment items to enable shifting and exchanging equipment among all vo-tech schools within the state according to needs.

Discussion was also held regarding confusion about the possibility that some students would drop out of regular school if involved in the vo-tech program.

Gililand said the school should have little effect on dropouts. "In reality, the schools benefit from the vo-tech program in finances and units of work," he said.

Gililand also announced the opening of a temporary office for the school district at 219 North Bickford.

The board consists of Marvin Novak, Yukon, chairman, James Gibson, 1002 Country Club, vice chairman, Mrs. Herbert A. Von-Tungeln, northwest of El Reno, clerk, and members Jess C. Roberts, southwest of El Reno, and C. J. Hansen, Jr., Calumet.

The next regular meeting of the board will be Sept. 12 in Union City.

(Archive news courtesy: *The Oklahoman*)

Vo-Tech Sites And Other Items Viewed

9/12/68

Budgetary items, a report on architectural designs and discussion of the site for the Canadian Valley Vocational-Technical school were covered at the regular meeting of the school board, held in Union City.

President of the board, Marvin Novak, gave a report on the selection of the school site, located four miles east of El Reno. In his report, Novak reviewed the complete procedure the board went through in making the choice.

Board member Jess Roberts gave a report in reference to visitations to buildings that the architects under consideration had designed. Five different architectural firms were visited plus some of the buildings they had designed.

After an explanation of the budgetary request, which is necessary to carry out the appropriations under the alternate accounting system, the request was approved and signed. This was done on a motion made by C.J. Hansen and seconded by

Roberts. J.R. Gililand, superintendent of the school, gave the report.

The board was then given information regarding various meetings scheduled for the month of September.

It was also reported that the Mustang public schools have 18 students currently enrolled in the Oklahoma City vo-tech school on a tuition basis.

Mustang school superintendent Charles Holleyman, asked the vo-tech board to consider paying all or part of the funds necessary for the students. The tuition is \$150 on each student per year.

(Archive news courtesy: *El Reno Tribune*)

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 29 CareerTech districts statewide, including Canadian Valley Technology Center. Other nearby districts include Francis Tuttle, Metro Tech, Moore-Norman, Chisholm Trail and Western technology centers. Only those communities who have passed ad valorem support for CareerTech schools may send their high school students tuition-free to tech centers.

Grady County Enters the Mix: Satellite School Added to the Plans

Interest existed early to include a portion of Grady County into the Area School District concept, but high school administrators there favored joining either the planned Fort Cobb or Lawton Area School districts, said Marvin Novak, Canadian Valley's first board president.

"We tried to get Chickasha in the very beginning so we could locate that school where it really ought to be," Novak said. "We went to Chickasha and had a meeting down there with their school board and local patrons. It come out that they wanted to be part of Lawton. We talked to them at length."

But the Lawton deal blew up, and Grady County school administrators quickly approached Canadian Valley's board to ask for a second chance.

"We were going to just be a little smaller operation," Novak said, once the board decided to add Chickasha and a few surrounding smaller schools into Canadian Valley's district.

Plans were well underway to build a campus in El Reno. A smaller, satellite campus was conceived for Grady County.

Novak's good friend and fellow founding board member C.J. Hansen said he is glad the Grady County officials came to their senses.

"They just realized this would be more beneficial," Hansen said. "We told them it would be a satellite school, because (El Reno) would be the main campus. We agreed that during the next election they could have a board member down there so they could have a voice," Hansen said. "We kept the board at five people, because somebody left the board. We looked at the situation, and in our view the more kids we could help the better it would be."

Chickasha is now one of three main campuses, along with the El Reno campus and the new Dr. Earl Cowan campus.

TECH ARCHIVES:

Grady Gets OK On Satellite School

4-17-69
E. B. Turley, Superintendent of Chickasha Public Schools, announced this week, Grady County Schools approving the annexation to the Canadian Valley Vocational Area School have received oral confirmation that a satellite school will be established in Chickasha for the participating Grady County schools.

This school will be opened by the fall of 1970. Possible courses of study will be: Auto Mechanics, Auto Body Repairs, Vocational Drafting, Industrial Electronics and Medical and Dental Office Assistant.

Due to a decrease in federal and state matching funds for construction, and lack of support of other Grady County school districts, there is a possibility that the facility for training of industrial employment will be postponed. The Canadian Valley Board will select a site for this school.

Area school districts that ap-

proved the participation in an election April 1, included Chickasha, Tuttle, Amber-Pocasset, Friend and Alox districts.

(Archive news courtesy: Chickasha Express Star)

DID YOU KNOW?

The state of Oklahoma provided \$1 million in matching funds to provide for building costs and equipment and another \$140,000 worth of equipment from a state pool. Taxpayers, mostly in Canadian and Grady counties, provided slightly more than \$1.5 million in start-up costs.

Vo-Tech School's Size May Be Increased

Valuation and size of the Canadian Valley Vocational-Technical school will increase by about one-third if plans announced Wednesday by J.R. Gilliland, superintendent of the school, come to completion.

Gilliland, speaking to some 60 members of the El Reno Kiwanis Club, announced plans to include a large part of Grady County, including Chickasha, in the district.

The superintendent said that portion of Grady County which is

considering coming to the Canadian Valley Vo-Tech school would bring about \$24,000,000 more valuation to the district.

In exchange for joining the district there would be a "wing" building of the Vo-Tech district located in Grady County.

Jim Gibson, a member of the board, said the structure which will be built in Grady County would probably be in the \$100,000 class.

Gilliland stated that only such courses as auto mechanics, welding, drafting and sheet metal

work would be taught at the Grady County site with the more technical skills conducted at the school site three miles east of El Reno.

Because of the possibility of the Grady County hook-up, the superintendent said, the mill election will be held probably in late April rather than Feb. 25, when the regular school election is held.

Gilliland said because of the already high millage levy in Yukon the board had agreed to call for a bond issue not to exceed

1.5 mills a year.

As the district now stands the 1.5 mills would bring \$750,000 for building. With the Grady County addition the figure would be just over \$1,000,000. Whatever the amount it will be matched by federal and state funds on a 50-50 basis meaning the school's home campus in El Reno could be near the \$2-million figure.

If the Grady County addition is accomplished it will enable the addition of about five more subjects to the schedule on the El Reno campus, Gibson said.

(Archive news courtesy: El Reno Tribune)

Satellite School Plant Included In Bond Issue

Residents of Alex, Chickasha, Friend, Amber - Pocasset and Tuttle school districts in Grady County, along with other districts in the Canadian Valley Area Vocational - Technical district, will vote Tuesday on a \$1,040,000 school bond issue to construct a Vo-Tech school plant.

Residents of these districts approved by a 10-1 majority, earlier, to become a part of the vo - tech district. This enables the districts involved to offer a stronger educational program for students. In addition to taking regular academic programs

at their home districts, they may also take vocational education courses in some 15 areas of study, said J. R. Gilliland.

The \$1,040,000 bond issue, along with \$1,000,000 in federal appropriations, will build the main area vo - tech school on a 60 acre tract of land east of El Reno and a satellite school, of 20,000 square feet, built in Grady County. The main school near El Reno will be about 80,000 square feet. Plans have already been drawn for the two buildings.

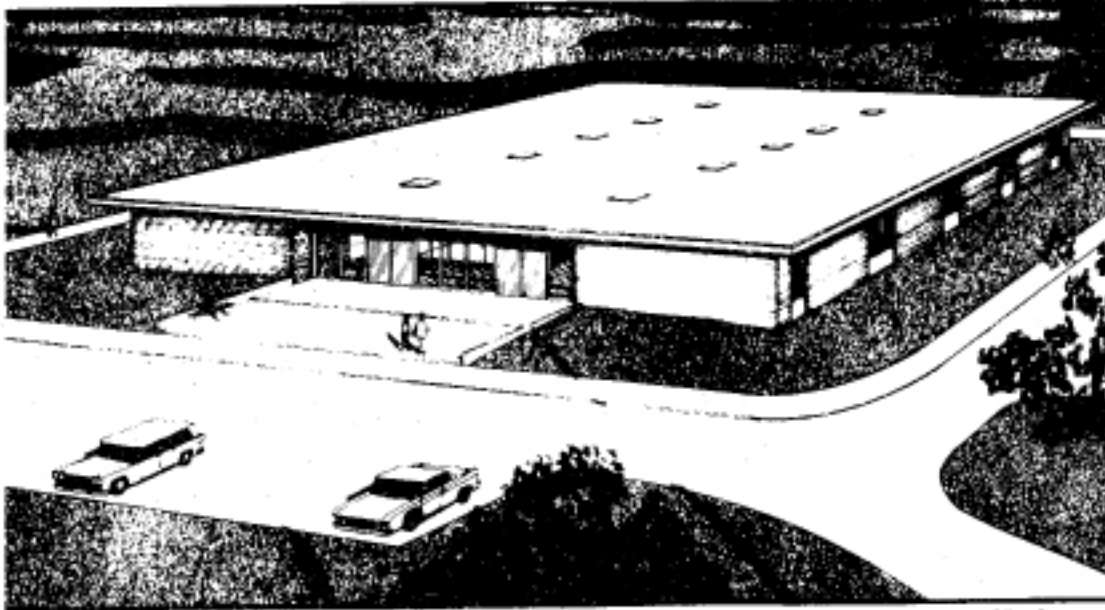
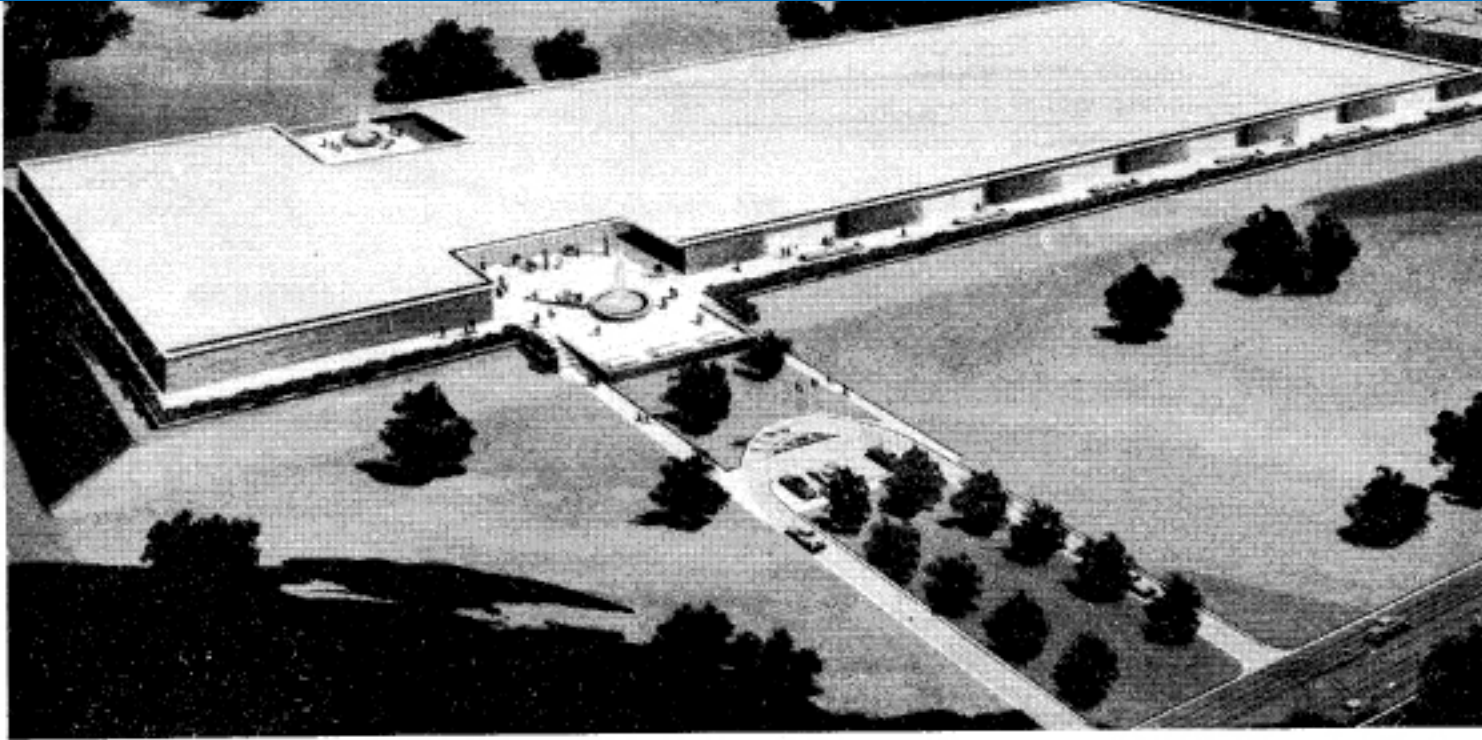
The bond issue, about a mill

and a half, will provide sufficient revenue for construction. It will increase taxes only about a \$1.50 per thousand on net assessed valuation of property on tax rolls. On most property, the increase would be about a dollar.

School officials and others interested in expanding educational opportunities for local youth, point out that the cost is small when compared to strengthening programs to provide total education for youth who are interested in industrial careers as well as for the college bound student.

(Archive news courtesy: Chickasha Express Star)

**TECH
ARCHIVES:**



(Archive photos courtesy: *El Reno Tribune*)

4-24-69
THESE ARE THE two proposed facilities to house vo-tech operations under the auspices of the Canadian Valley Vocational-Technical school district. In the top photo the principal school for the district would cover approximately 80,000 square feet while the satellite school, in the bottom photo, would house approximately 20,000 square feet. The satellite school would serve five Grady County school districts jointly the Canadian Valley district and would be located in Chickasha. Patrons will vote on the \$1,040,000 bond issue May 6.

DID YOU KNOW?

Architectural plans for the El Reno campus were selected for display at a meeting of the American Association of School Administrators in Atlantic City, N.J. and at the National School Boards Association in San Francisco. Reid & Associates, who designed the building, in partnership with Bowman and Nicek of Bethany, received the invitation to make the display. Building design focused on maximizing open space to allow for size and content change among classrooms.

**TECH
 ARCHIVES:**



TECH REFLECTIONS: DONNA VON TUNGELN

Canadian Valley began a new Industrial Sewing program in 1971-72 and looked to a local homemaker for its first instructor. Donna Von Tungeln taught the program for eight years with no idea she would spend 30 years serving in education.

She was later asked to get her counselor's certification and eventually an administrative certification. She served as a counselor another eight years and then as director of student services her final 16 years until retiring in 2001.

Von Tungeln said she is most proud that she was able to positively influence students and help them achieve their goals, and she thinks CareerTech's mission is as vital today as it was three or four decades ago.

"I think it is important that kids get occupational skills that will help them earn a living no matter what happens to them," she said. "This way they can always be prepared to be successful. That's why vocational skills are so important. They will never lose those skills."

Von Tungeln did not leave education altogether upon retirement. She joined the school's Foundation board and continues to serve today.

"I joined pretty soon after retirement," she said. "The Foundation exists to help students achieve their goals, and I'm very proud we're doing that."

She sits on 14 organizations and boards, and that suits her fine.

"We're put here to serve, not to be served."

"I think it is important that kids get occupational skills that will help them earn a living no matter what happens to them. This way they can always be prepared to earn an honest living."

Donna Von Tungeln



Donna Von Tungeln

Former Director
of Student Services, El Reno

Canadian Valley's "Super" Men

Dr. J.R. Gililand 1968-1979
 Dr. Roy Peters 1979-1984
 Dr. Earl Cowan 1984-2008
 Dr. Greg Winters 2008-present



Dr. J.R. Gililand



Dr. Roy Peters

40 Years of Superintendents



Dr. Earl Cowan



Dr. Greg Winters

DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Earl Cowan served more years (24) than any superintendent in Canadian Valley's history. Cowan also either taught or served as a Canadian Valley administrator for 14 years and taught another 8 years elsewhere, giving him a combined 46 years as an educator.

TECH ARCHIVES:

Philosophy, Purpose and Goals of the Canadian Valley Vocational-Technical Area Schools

We believe that the needs of each individual student must be determined and every effort made to help him develop skills in his chosen field. Through a stimulating program of action and study, each student has an opportunity to prepare for a specific occupational area or to upgrade and increase his technical knowledge, if he is already employed. Our classrooms and shops have been designed especially to facilitate learning and working under conditions similar to those in industry.

The buildings contain 107,000 square feet - El Reno Center 86,000 square feet; Chickasha Center 21,000 square feet.

Cost

El Reno Center	\$1,446,000.00
Chickasha Center	403,000.00
Furniture & Equipment	658,000.00
Total Cost	\$2,507,000.00
District Funds	\$1,040,000.00 Bond Fund
District Funds	\$467,000.00 General Operation
State & Federal Funds	\$1,000,000.00 Buildings and Equipment
State Equipment Pool	\$140,000.00 Equipment
Reid & Associates	Architects
Bowman-Nicek & Associates, Inc.	Architects
J. W. Skaggs, Inc.	Contractor, El Reno Center
Anderson and House, Inc.	Contractor, Chickasha Center

Participating Schools

Alex, Amber-Pocasset, Banner, Bethany, Calumet, Chickasha, Darlington, El Reno, Friend, Maple, Minco, Mustang, Piedmont, Riverside, Tuttle, Union City and Yukon

Groundbreaking Set At Vo-Tech

Chickasha Express 10-19-69

Groundbreaking for construction of the Canadian Valley Area Vo-Tech school will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the school site, four miles east of El Reno along U. S. 86, according to J. W. Gilliland, superintendent.

The school will serve as a vocational and technical training center for several school districts in Canadian and Grady counties which are a part of the Vo-Tech district. Students will take their regular academic courses at their home school and vocational courses at the Vo-Tech school.

Grady County schools in the

(Archive news courtesy:
Chickasha Express-Star)

district include Minco, a part of the original district, plus Tuttle, Amber - Pocasset, Friend Alex and Chickasha. Plans are for a satellite school to be constructed in the Chickasha area.

For the main school near El Reno, the successful contractor was J. W. Skaggs Construction Co. Inc., of Oklahoma City on a total bid of \$1,236,106. This includes the base bid of \$1,205,000 plus the alternates selected at a meeting of the Vo-Tech board at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. In original bidding, nine firms submitted proposals. Eighteen alternates were considered. The board accepted Alternate No. 4, the addition of terrazzo in two areas at an added cost of \$6,849; aluminum door frames for \$751 addition; addition of patios and planters for \$12,900, addition of kitchen equipment for \$29,752; deduction of \$6,725 for a change on of king - sized brick, a change

(Continued on Page Two)

Ground

(Continued from Page One)

electrical distribution panels at a deduction of \$10,000; deletion of outside yard hydrants at a saving of \$2,341.

The base bid plus alternates and deducts came to a total of \$1,236,106, which was the bid the board accepted. A discussion of the building construction had been held earlier. Board members then met with the contractor and architects to work out the changes to be added to the base bid, which were for the main building.

TECH ARCHIVES:

EL RENO GROUNDBREAKING



El Reno Tribune - 10-22-69

GROUND-BREAKING officially took place at the site of the Canadian Valley Vocational-Technical school east of El Reno Wednesday. Members of the vo-tech board, county commissioners and other officials were present for the ceremony. Shown from left to right are Leon Meeks, representative of the construction firm employed for the

building; J. R. Gililand, superintendent of the Vo-Tech school, architect John Reid and board members, Jim Gibson, Mrs. Charlene Von Tungeln and C. J. Hansen. Architect Paul Nicek is turning ground in the ceremony. The site is about three miles east of El Reno. (Tribune Photo)

(Archive photo courtesy: El Reno Tribune)



TECH REFLECTIONS: DR. ROY PETERS

Dr. Roy Peters, president for the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, served as Canadian Valley's second superintendent (1979-84).

He cites growth in facilities and technology as important contributions while he was on the job. The Chickasha campus grew exponentially, and the J.R. Gililand Seminar Center was added in El Reno.

"The biggest change in technology was computers," Peters said. "There were no computers when I started at CVTC. We worked off of yellow pads. In 1980, we bought our first one, which was an IBM mini. It was used in the business office for enrollment. In addition, we were operating back then on 3 mills versus the 15 mills CVTC is operating on today."

CareerTech is a win-win, Peters said.

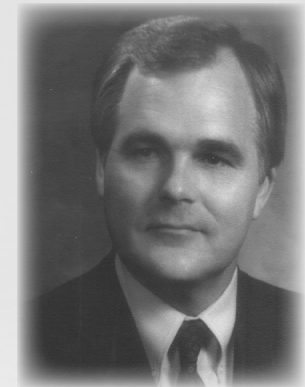
"We're like an educational pipeline... high school students enter our programs, they gain the knowledge and experience they need to enter into our workforce, which in turn benefits our district's business and industry," he said. "When I first began at CVTC, we weren't doing as much work on the BIS side, plus we had limited capabilities on the training side. It was all daytime programs, and even our nighttime classes were inflexible. Today, we are all about serving our community's needs in all aspects of education, training and business and industry services."

So what does Peters remember most?

"I loved it all, but mostly the students," he said. "To see our students grow through the system was very rewarding. Plus, I'm originally from Alex, so it was good to get back to my roots."

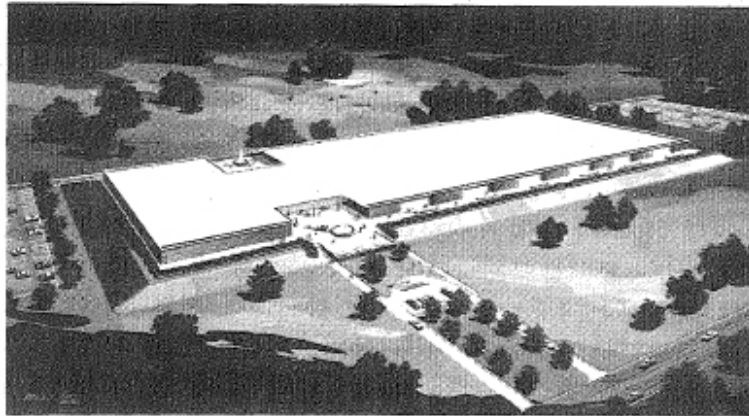
"We're like an educational pipeline... high school students enter our programs, they gain the knowledge and experience they need to enter into our workforce, which in turn benefits our district's business and industry."

Dr. Roy Peters, Jr.



Dr. Roy Peters, Jr.
Superintendent
1979-1984

The Vo-Tech Center Is Very Much a Part of El Reno!



It Will Amount To a Fine "Industry" for This Immediate Area and Will Mean Much to The Future of This Community!

Let's Build A **BIG** Line To Serve Vo-Tech

And Provide for Future Development!

Every community of our size in Oklahoma is avidly seeking new industry . . . and we are active in our search for new payrolls and the business upsurge that comes with them. We cannot but regard the Vo-Tech school as a new business asset to El Reno and the advantages of the Vo-Tech school can be enhanced if a big-capacity water line is built to serve a new, valuable customer for our water.

BUT THIS IS NOT THE WHOLE STORY!

Within a few years, perhaps only a few months, the area between El Reno and the Vo-Tech location is sure to become more attractive to business and industry. A big line will provide water for future growth and development. Let's be ready to go with ample water when the water is needed!

Vote → **S-M-I-L-E**
August 12
So Much Improvement for So Little Expense

S-M-I-L-E CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, Jim Wilkinson, General Chairman
Jack Dyer Dean Ward David Ratliff Bruce Haynes
Jack Farr Marion Jeffrey Richard Fogg Bill Marshall
Dwight Stephens

El Reno Tribune - August 8, 1969

(Archive graphic courtesy: El Reno Tribune)

DID YOU KNOW?

City of El Reno voters were asked to go to the polls in August 1969 in order to consider a variety of city improvements, including one that would provide city water services to the El Reno campus.

The water pipeline to the school was one of three proposals approved by voters. Two other measures that would have provided for neighborhood development and for low-rent housing were defeated.

Canadian Valley's water line proposal narrowly passed with 744 voting in favor and 707 opposed to a modest property tax increase.

An advertising campaign entitled "S-M-I-L-E" (So Much Improvement for So Little Expense) ran in the *El Reno Tribune* newspaper. The campaign boasted of boosting the city's chances of attracting future business with the water line near the school site.

HOW THE VOTING WENT

TECH ARCHIVES:

Precinct	Vo-Tech Line		Water Impr.		Four-Mile Creek		Neighbor. Develop.		Low Rent Housing	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1-A	34	55	28	41	29	48	22	66	25	62
1-B	40	65	40	54	42	57	25	80	26	79
1-C	12	8	12	8	13	6	12	8	11	9
1-D	16	20	18	17	17	17	16	21	15	21
2-A	18	23	17	18	16	21	14	27	16	27
2-B	19	15	14	15	15	15	15	20	14	21
2-C	51	12	45	11	36	13	43	19	42	21
2-D	19	30	12	33	6	37	13	35	19	26
3-A	21	18	19	18	17	21	19	21	21	21
3-B	35	28	32	28	27	26	27	34	25	38
3-C	50	43	48	30	51	34	45	45	44	46
3-D	100	91	121	57	113	62	105	86	89	102
3-E	35	27	30	29	27	32	25	37	23	39
3-F	51	37	52	26	48	39	55	32	49	38
3-G	46	45	46	42	42	40	39	53	38	54
4-A	25	26	24	21	25	16	21	29	14	36
4-B	33	34	30	33	28	34	28	42	26	41
4-C	70	58	78	47	71	48	70	56	69	60
4-D	54	55	49	49	51	54	55	52	51	59
4-E	17	13	10	19	9	19	8	21	7	21
Darlington	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4
Totals	744	707	725	608	683	643	655	788	624	828

(Archive graphic courtesy: El Reno Tribune)

Tuttle Times & Minco Minstrel - Oct. 14, 1971

VO-TECH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

ENROLLMENT PERIOD: Daily 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Oct. 14, 15 & 18, 19, 20 Except Friday evening Oct. 15th

You may enroll by mail or come to the school. Fill in the form in this bulletin and mail to the Vo-Tech Center. Applications for enrollment accepted on a first come, first served basis. Official enrollment consists of completing an application with a deposit of \$5.00. Balance of course fee must be paid at first class meeting.

ADMISSION: A high school diploma or the GED is not required for enrollment in adult courses.

WITHDRAWALS: A student withdrawing after the first class will not receive a course fee refund. Course fee will be refunded when course does not fill to minimum enrollment.

BOOKS: Textbooks may be purchased in the classroom and at the office at a later date.

LOCATION: Canadian Valley Area Vo-Tech School, El Reno Center, 3 miles east of El Reno, Highway 66, P.O. Box 579, El Reno, Oklahoma 73036. Telephone 262-2629.

Classes to begin the week of October 18, 1971, 6:30 - 9:30, 2 nights per week for 12 weeks.

Class	Fee	Class	Fee
Aviation Airframe Review	\$25.00	Nurses Aide	\$25.00
Aviation Power Plant Review	\$25.00		

Classes to begin the week of October 18, 1971, 6:00 - 9:30, 2 nights per week for 6 weeks:

Class	Fee	Class	Fee
Automotive Tune-Up	\$15.00	Electronics III	\$15.00
Business Office (Beginners)	\$15.00	Machine Shop	\$15.00
Business Office (Advanced)	\$15.00	Tractor Maintenance	\$15.00
Drafting	\$15.00	Upholstery	\$15.00
Electronics I	\$15.00	Welding, Basic	\$15.00
Electronics II	\$15.00	Welding, Advanced	\$15.00

Starting date of following classes to be set when minimum enrollment is completed (2 nights per week for 6 weeks):

Class	Fee	Class	Fee
Electrical Wiring	\$15.00	Food Service Supper	\$15.00
Small Engine Repair	\$15.00	Income Tax Course	\$15.00
Plumbing, Helper Level	\$15.00	Bricklaying	\$15.00
Building Custodian	\$15.00		

First Aid Course (10 hours total) No Charge.

ADULT NIGHT SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Name _____ Date _____

Course Requested _____

Address _____
 Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____
 Home _____ Business _____

Next Enrollment Period will be January 10, 11, 12, 13, 1972.

(Archive graphic courtesy: Minco Minstrel)

TECH ARCHIVES:

Vo-Tech Board Acts On School, Courses

By Reno Daily Tribune - 4-8-70

A new Vo-Tech board member was sworn in, an electronics teacher hired and extension of building times were approved in varied action at the Canadian Valley Area Vo-Tech meeting Tuesday evening.

John M. Nelson, Chickasha, was sworn in to fill the remaining term of J.C. Roberts, who resigned from the board.

The board also hired Mrs. Faye I. Hobson, Oklahoma City, as an electronics teacher for the school. Mrs. Hobson is currently teaching electronics at Northwest Classen.

Anderson and House Construction Company was given a nine-day extension on their contract for building the satellite school at Chickasha because of the change of sites.

A seven-day extension of work time was also granted the contractor at the El Reno site due to inclement weather.

The board heard a report on the work of the assistant superintendents on their work with the school districts.

Leo Cardin, assistant superintendent, told the board all sophomores in Alex, Amber, Calumet, Minco, Piedmont, Tuttle, and Union City with the

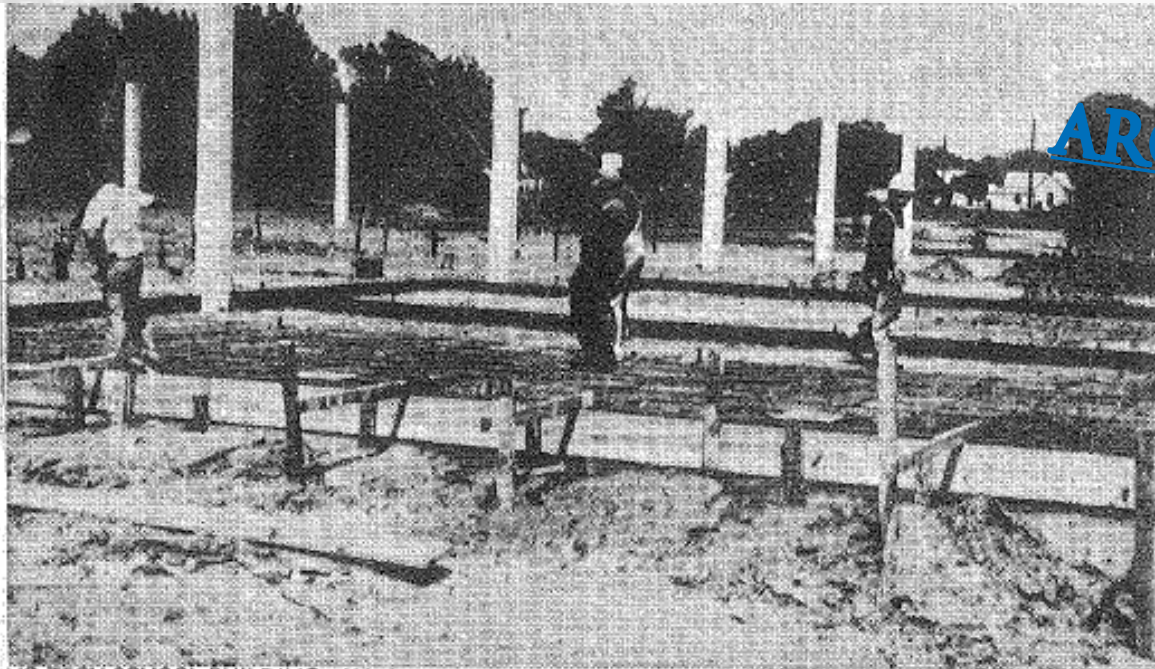
help of the Oklahoma State Employment service had been given the General Aptitude Test Battery (GATB) tests and the Bethany, Chickasha, El Reno, Mustang and Yukon schools and implement their own testing programs.

As a result of the testing and interviews with students, a tentative enrollment of 137 students had been projected when the school opens, Cardin said.

The classes tentatively scheduled are aircraft engine mechanics, auto mechanics, health service occupations, diesel mechanics, drafting and design, electronics technology, electro mechanics, food service, medical office assistant, office practice, welding, machine shop, auto body, vocational drafting and vocational electronics.

(Archive photo courtesy: El Reno Tribune)

**TECH
ARCHIVES:**



VO-TECH SCHOOL BUILDING—Workmen are getting ready to pour the flooring for the new vocational-technical satellite school building now under construction at the 13th and Michigan area. Footing and foundation have been poured and outside wall columns are in

place. Four courses will be offered at the school here, a part of the Canadian Valley Vocational and Technical school district. The building is to be completed in time for the 1970-71 school term.

Chickasha Daily Express - May 19, 1970

Vo Tech School Board Hears Report On Satellite Construction Progress

The Canadian Valley Vo-Tech school board members heard a report by J. R. Gilliland on progress of construction at both the main plant, east of El Reno, and the satellite school being constructed here.

Gilliland discussed a special education proposal with the board. The State Vocational-Technical Education Department postponed approval of this program until sometime in the future, said Gilliland.

Ernest Andrews and Leo Garden explained adult educa-

tion classes and present enrollment in the various vocational high school classes being offered at the school.

Gilliland received permission for employment of George Dusbek and Mrs. Faye Hobson during July, with approval by State Vocational-Technical department, to work with Garden in writing the curriculum for the electro-mechanical course to be used in the El Reno center.

Four teachers were employed by the board. Included were

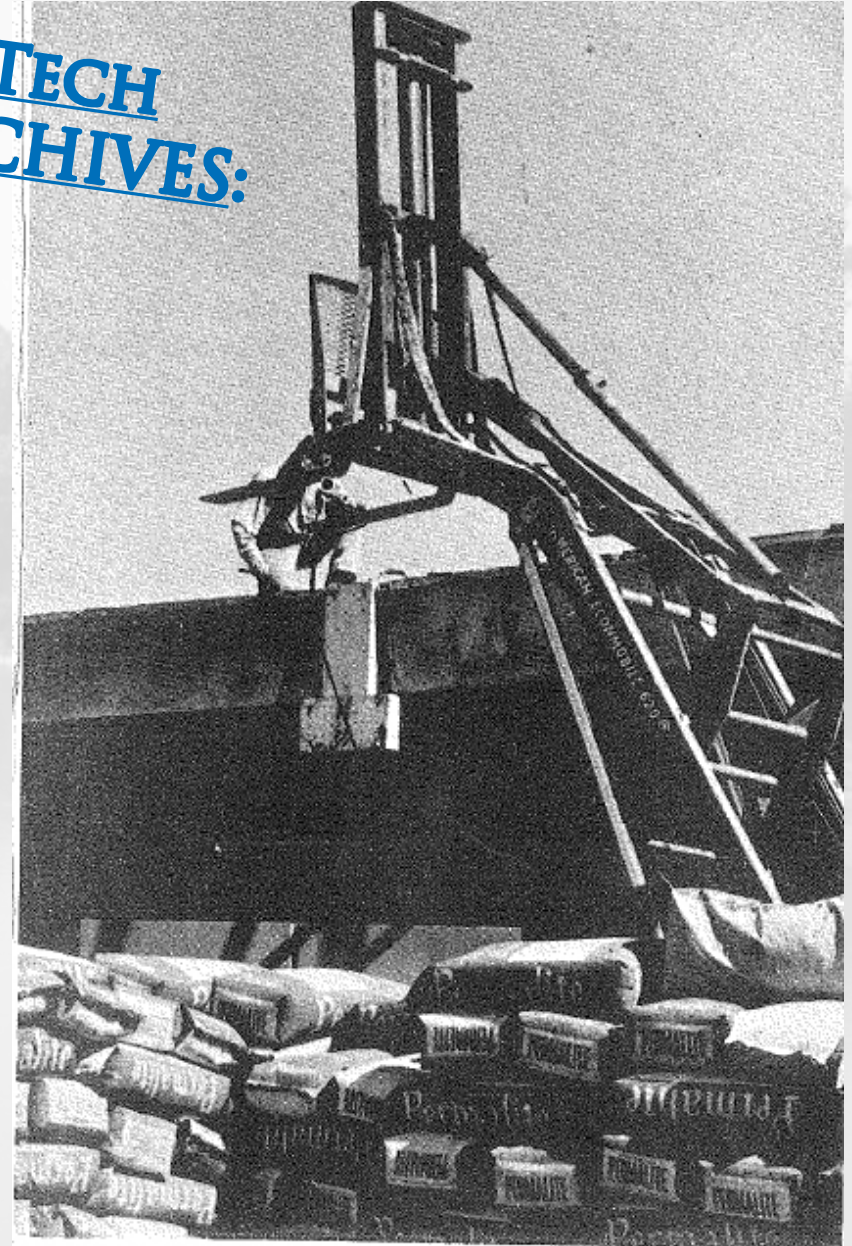
James Allen, vocational electronics; Mrs. Benita Eckiwady, practical nursing; Philip Mason, auto mechanics, and Amos Smotherman, vocational drafting.

The board also received bids for parking, sidewalks and drives at the El Reno center. A change was made in construction of the lagoon at the center.

John Nelson of Chickasha is the member for the Vo-Tech school board from this area. There is a member from each

of the five areas in the district which includes school districts in both Canadian and Grady Counties. School districts in Grady county taking part in the Vo-Tech program include Minco, an original member, Tuttle, Amber-Pocasset, Chickasha, Friend and Alex.

Students at these schools attend vo-tech classes at the central school, then take their regular academic classes at schools in their home districts and graduate from their own high schools.



A WORKMAN, partially hidden by a fork lift, guides a section of prestressed concrete to be used in the construction of the Vo-Tech School east of El Reno. Construction on the school is expected to be completed in time for classes to start in September. (Tribune Photo)

(Archive photo courtesy: Chickasha Express-Star)

(Archive photo courtesy: El Reno Tribune)

FULL-TIME PROGRAM ADDITIONS:

CHICKASHA CAMPUS

1970-71 Original Programs: Auto Body; Auto Mechanics; Electronics; Drafting; Health Services & Medical Office

1971-72: Child Care

1974-75: Welding

1979-80: Machine Shop

1980-81: Farm Business Management

1984-85: Business & Office and Carpentry

1985-86: Data Processing

1987-88: Automated Manufacturing Technology

1989-90: Project Connect program established (existed for one year)

1990-91: Building and Grounds Maintenance; Carpentry discontinued

1991-92: Practical Nursing

1994-95: Medical Assisting

1995-96: Principles of Technology/ Applied Physics/ Applied Math

1996-97: Medical Assisting discontinued

1998-99: Surgical Technology

2000-01: Graphics and Imaging Technology

2002-03: E-Biz; Applied Physics discontinued

2005-06: Health Careers Link (existed for one year)

2008-09: established as a regional site for the Oklahoma School for Science and Math (OSSM)

2008-09 full-time programs: Automotive Collision Technology; Automotive Service Technology; Business Office Technology; Computer Aided Drafting and Design; Computer Information Systems; Early Care and Education; Graphic Design; Health Careers; Interactive Media and Web Technology; Occupational Services; Precision Machining; Practical Nursing; Surgical Technology; Welding

EL RENO CAMPUS

1970-71 Original Programs: Aero Mechanics; Auto Mechanics; Diesel Mechanics; Drafting & Design; Electronics; Electro-Mechanics; Machine Shop; Business Office Practices; Food Services; Licensed Practical Nursing; Medical Office Assistant/Health Service Occupations; Welding

1971-72: Fashion Design & Production (ended in 1984)

1973-74: Building Trades

1974-75: Electricity; Small Engine Repair; Commercial Art; Basic Career Education; Environmental Mechanics (Heat & Air)

1977-78: Banking/Savings & Loan; Small Business Management (ended 1983)

1979-80: Trim Carpentry (ended in 1986, incorporated into Construction)

1980-81: Plumbing (ended in 1987); Masonry; Auto Body;

1983-84: Data Processing

1985-86: Automated Technology (closed in 1990)

1986-87: Computer & Business Machine Repair

1989-90: Project Connect

1990-91: Intergenerational Day Care; Principles of Technology

1995-96: Interactive Media; International Marketing

2006-07: Pre-Engineering

2007-08: Cosmetology; Biomedical Sciences; Service Careers

2008-09: Computer Programming

2008-09 full-time programs: Automotive Collision Technology; Automotive Service Technology I & II; Aviation Maintenance Technology; Biomedical Sciences; Business Office Technology; Computer Aided Drafting and Design / 3-D Imaging; Computer Repair Networking; Computer Programming; Construction Trades; Cosmetology; Diesel Technology; Early Care and Education; Electrical Trades Technology; Graphic Design; Health Careers; Heating, Venting, AC, & Refrigeration; Interactive Media and Web Technology; Link to Nursing; Medical Office Technology; Pre-Engineering; Precision Machining; Practical Nursing; Service Careers; Welding



TECH REFLECTIONS: GEORGE TINER

George Tiner was hired as Electronics instructor at the El Reno campus in February 1977. He later became Business & Industry Services director and was named assistant superintendent at the Chickasha campus in 1987.

Tiner said he thinks Canadian Valley benefits its district patrons in two significant ways.

"For our career students, we offer a supportive educational environment where a student can spend a minimum amount of time to develop a marketable skill that can have a significant impact on their ability to better themselves and the lives of those around them," he said.

"In our Business and Industry Services, we offer a true partnership with businesses or industries in where we provide programs and services that improve their efficiency and productivity. As an organization we have a vested interest in the success of every business and industry in our district, and we will be there on a day-to-day basis to support their efforts."

Tiner said the evolution of the types of programs and services provided by a tech center have changed quite significantly.

"Originally, we served half-day programs primarily to high school students," he said. "We since have offered evening programs, BIS services, remediation and academic courses, and now our pre-engineering and other primarily college prep classes.

"I feel very fortunate to have been a part of this district for the last 31 years. I am very proud to be a part of a school that over the years has been focused on meeting the needs of our clients whether it is daytime students, evening students, or business and industry. This philosophy permeates the ranks of Canadian Valley and we have been very fortunate to have had a great Board of Education that has also had that commitment and has made decisions based on that philosophy."

"I am very proud to be a part of a school that over the years has been focused on meeting the needs of our clients whether it is daytime students, evening students, or business and industry."

George Tiner



George Tiner
Assistant Superintendent
Chickasha campus

CHICKASHA CAMPUS

1401 MICHIGAN AVE.

TECH
ARCHIVES:



ABOVE, AT LEFT: The Chickasha campus as it looked during its opening in 1970.

AT RIGHT: The Chickasha campus some years later in the 1980s.

Photo by Pat Brooks

TECH ARCHIVES:



AT LEFT: The Automotive and Machine Shop building progresses in this 1984 photo.

BELOW LEFT: Child Care was officially the sixth program added (1971-72) and the first new addition to the original five programs. Child Care was provided here until the new building opened in 1994.

BELOW RIGHT: The flood of 1987 at and around the Chickasha campus.



CHICKASHA CAMPUS: THROUGH THE YEARS

Photo by Pat Brooks

CHICKASHA CAMPUS (1982)



CHICKASHA CAMPUS (2006)



Photo by Pat Brooks



TECH REFLECTIONS: HAROLD SMITH / ROBERT MCCLAIN

Good friends Harold Smith and Robert McClain have well over three decades of teaching experience at CV Tech. Smith was the first Diesel instructor in 1970. He later taught Building & Grounds until his retirement in 1990. McClain was the Drafting & Design instructor from 1973 until he retired in 1989. Both men were named Teacher of the Year during their careers (McClain in 1984-85 and Smith two years later).

Their teaching careers began in different ways. McClain got a call from the state department asking him to teach; Smith was offered a farm if he would stay in industry. "I turned it down, I'm stubborn and my mind was made up," Smith said.

For them, the rewarding part of teaching was watching students use the skills they were learning. "Students still come by to let me know how they are doing, except now they have beards," Smith said laughing, "makes them harder to recognize." McClain added, "And two months off in the summer was nice too, but I loved working with young people."

Not to say that the early days weren't full of challenges. "For drafting, you had to have certain math skills. It was hard when they didn't," McClain said. "In my program, we went from slide rules and logarithms to calculators to computers; sometimes it was hard to keep up with how quickly the students were grasping the new technology."

Smith recalls the dress code being white shirts and ties. "I wore bow ties so that they wouldn't get stuck in the machines." McClain added, "I still have a drawer full of white dress shirts in packages."

Now, both men are content in retirement and proud of the legacy they left at Canadian Valley. "It was like a big family, the shops were all in a big open area with just dividers," Smith said, "we really worked together."

Smith sees a great future for CareerTech. "People are always going to need hands-on people, and the tech center does the best job training for that," Smith said. McClain added, "As the world changes, the tech center must change with it."

"People are always going to need hands-on people, and the tech center does the best job training for that."

Harold Smith



Harold Smith
First Diesel Instructor,
El Reno



Robert McClain
Longtime Drafting
Instructor, El Reno



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Student Scott Charlson wires an electrical outlet in 1982.

Staff watch a machine shop demo in 1980.

Welding instructor Lonnie Layman, in 1980, with a student.

George Tiner in his days as Electronics instructor, with a VICA student in the early 1980s.

Auto Body students work over a classy Olds Toronado.



TECH ARCHIVES:



Photo by **CHICKASHA CAMPUS: THROUGH THE YEARS**

CHICKASHA CAMPUS: THROUGH THE YEARS



**TECH
ARCHIVES:**



CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: Health Care students in 1971.

The Helen Ward Seminar Center opened in 1988. It is named for a prominent Chickasha volunteer who also founded the school's Foundation in 1984.

Staff and guests gather at the ribbon cutting for the new Health & Child Care building in 1994.

Drafting instructor Bill Reed, in the 1980s, with several students.

Chili King of 1994 – George Tiner, assistant superintendent.

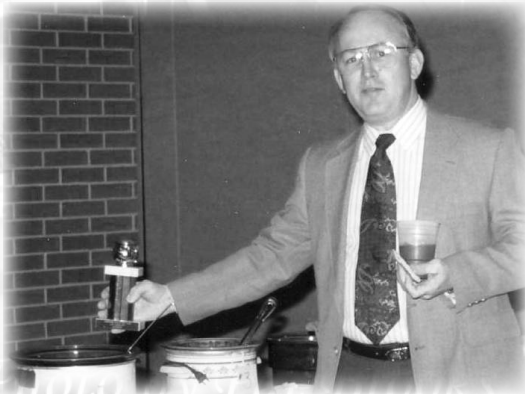


Photo by Tim Brooks

LONGTIME EMPLOYEES: LARRY & SHIRLEY VELEY

Larry Veley

1985-2007

Director of Student Services, Chickasha, retired June 2007

Shirley Veley

1981-83

Secretary to campus director, Chickasha; 1983-88 – Financial Fiscal Officer, Chickasha; 1988-89 – Encumbrance Clerk, El Reno; 1989-90 – Payroll Officer; 1990-2000 – Asst. Business Manager; 2000-08 – Business Manager, retired in January 2008.

What would you say is the biggest benefit Canadian Valley offers?

Larry: We reconnect people to learning – whether it's adults coming back to school or disenchanting high school students coming out here for the first time who are unconnected to their own school. They are able to come here and blossom and grow. What is great for us is to get to see these students go on and become successful in their lives and in a career.

Shirley: To see these students find out that there really is a chance for them. They come to our school and for some it's the first time they say, "I can do this! There are people here that will help me." We really try hard to help all our students succeed; we bend over backwards for everyone.

What significant changes have you seen take place at CVTC during your involvement in the CareerTech system?

Larry: It would have to be the growth. Through Dr. (Earl) Cowan's leadership we have grown so much. At Chickasha we have developed three buildings, plus the seminar center. In fact, the seminar center has really helped our campus grow considerably in our community. We have become much more community-minded.

Shirley: I agree... as a district we have focused more on community involvement and economic development. I know Dr. Cowan has made it a priority to make sure both campuses are very involved in their communities. He's also been very flexible with how we have grown with the district. We change when we need to, but we also keep what works.

What is your fondest memory at Canadian Valley?

Larry: The people... both the students and fellow employees. I've gotten so close to so many people throughout the years. You develop such a bond with everyone. It's like a second family.

Shirley: And I'll take it one step further... it's the caring of those people. The people of Canadian Valley are not just employees; they truly care what happens to the school, the students, and the district. It's a wonderful environment to work in.

How proud are you to have been involved in the school's rich 40-year history?

Larry: I have always been proud to be part of the vocational system. That's where I started, in the woodworking area, so it's been a blessing to grow with the system. I've watched my students grow with me. I even have "grand-students". It's so great to see a system that works.

Shirley: I feel very fortunate to have had such a wonderful opportunity at Canadian Valley. When I was hired, I had hardly any experience. They took a chance on me, gave me every opportunity to gain knowledge and experience, and I feel blessed to have grown in my career here at CVTC. We also do so much for our sending schools by keeping them informed of new legislation being passed. A lot of that has to do with Dr. Cowan's knowledge and dedication to our school and the CareerTech system.

EL RENO CAMPUS (1973)



EL RENO CAMPUS (1980)



EL RENO CAMPUS (1999)



EL RENO CAMPUS: THROUGH THE YEARS

TECH ARCHIVES:



ABOVE, AT LEFT: Diesel students discuss repairs during class time on the El Reno campus.

BELOW RIGHT: A student concentrates on a sewing project in the former Fashion Design program.

BELOW LEFT: Canadian Valley students gather with Gov. George Nigh at the State Capitol.





TECH REFLECTIONS: BILL HULSEY

Many people are familiar with CareerTech but not so familiar with its incredible Business & Industry Services (BIS) side. Bill Hulsey is one of many who champion the cause and mission of BIS.

Canadian Valley serves an average of nearly 25,000 students districtwide per year as individuals or employees of roughly 1,200 companies located in or near the district. These customers are served at Canadian Valley locations, on-site at their business or in the communities where they live.

"From the start we understood that business and industry was our ultimate customer," Hulsey said. "It only made sense to customize training to fit their needs and offer multiple levels of service on a schedule that was accessible by everyone. This idea has evolved into BIS as we know it today."

It's all about economic development.

"Helping people be more successful is the core business of Career Tech," Hulsey said. "If you think about it in the broad sense, this is also the mission of economic development organizations across the country. Anytime a business, community or individual is able to enhance their standard of living, income level or level of services, it could be said that they have experienced economic development.

"So, it behooves us to keep that vision in mind as we move forward with the development of our system. Everything we do needs to be focused on the development of a skilled workforce to make Oklahoma the most sought after location for new business development and expansion."

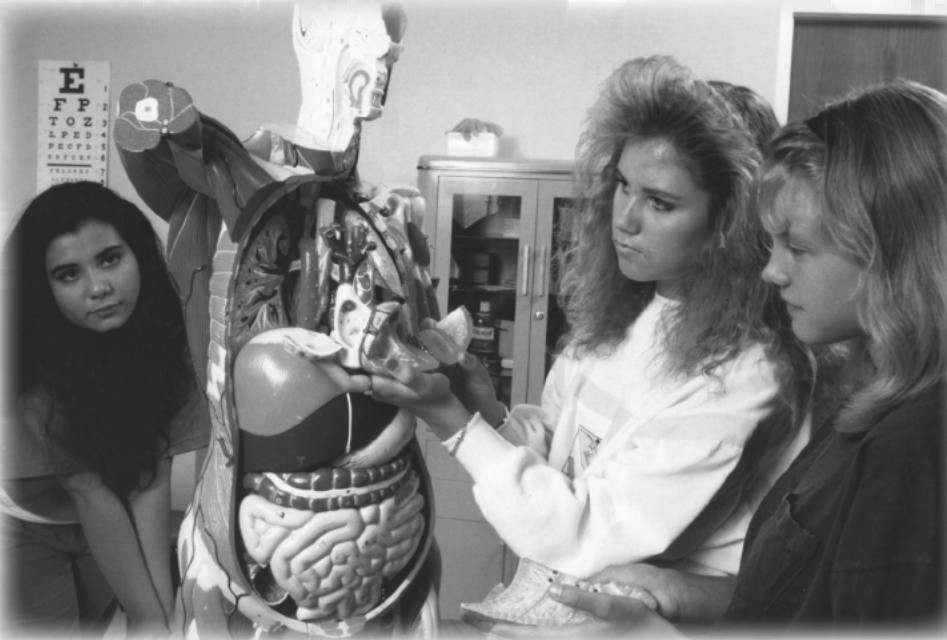
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Bill Hulsey



Bill Hulsey
Business & Industry
Services Director, El Reno

TECH ARCHIVES:



ABOVE, AT LEFT: A short-term adult works on a chair overhaul in an evening upholstery class.

ABOVE, AT RIGHT: Day Care students enjoy storytime in the early 1990s.

AT LEFT: Health Careers students learn anatomy in the 1990s.

EL RENO CAMPUS: THROUGH THE YEARS



TECH REFLECTIONS:

C.J. HANSEN

He doesn't teach in a classroom, but C.J. Hansen's contributions to education have touched the lives of thousands of area students. They are the stuff of legends.

Hansen has served the boards of education for Calumet Public Schools and Canadian Valley Technology Center for nearly half a century.

Following a stint of 11 years on the Calumet Public School board, Hansen was one of five founding board members at Canadian Valley in 1968.

Hansen served until 1979. He later became a founding member of the school's foundation board, having served faithfully since 1984. That's 46 years in all.

He said he ran for the Canadian Valley board position because of a tremendous need for technical training in the area.

"I envisioned it was going to do a lot of good and help a lot of kids," said Hansen of Canadian Valley. "I used to go to ballgames with my kids and sit around out in the lobby on breaks and hear stories about how kids went out to Canadian Valley, and they just did so well. That's what this has all been about."

Hansen, involved since the very beginning, said he is so proud of the school's reputation for world-class training and its ability to take so many students from local schools and turn them into hard-working, productive citizens. And he's very proud to have been involved in that process for more than four decades.

"I envisioned it was going to do a lot of good and help a lot of kids. I used to go to ballgames with my kids and sit around out in the lobby on breaks and hear stories about how kids went out to Canadian Valley, and they just did so well. That's what this has all been about."

C.J. Hansen



C.J. Hansen (1970)

Founding Board Member



C.J. Hansen (1990)

Past Board President

THROUGH THE YEARS:
RENO CAMPUS:

TECH
ARCHIVES:





TECH REFLECTIONS: R. LEO CARDEN

Leo Carden was hired away from then-Oklahoma City Vocational-Technology Center in 1969, a full year ahead of Canadian Valley's anticipated opening and while construction was already underway at both the Chickasha and El Reno centers.

He and a select group of others were housed in temporary offices in downtown El Reno. Administrators busied themselves preparing course curriculum and ordering equipment.

"We helped supervise that construction," Carden recalls. "We were there about every day. It was a challenge to get a school like that in operation."

Carden said Francis Tuttle's vision was to establish area vocational-technical schools on campuses throughout the state that would serve as many students as possible from corner to corner in Oklahoma.

He said the chance to get in on the ground floor of a brand new school was too much to pass up, and Carden left his three-year teaching stint at OKC Vo-Tech to join the staff at Canadian Valley.

"It was a chance for me to get into administration, and it was an increase in salary," Carden said. "I also got to help establish one of those schools."

Carden said the mission of today's technology centers is as vital today as it ever has been.

"It's a lifeline to the economy of Oklahoma industry wise. Industry has a choice now of qualified workers because of the vo-tech system. And I hope it continues to be that way."

"It's a lifeline to the economy of Oklahoma industry wise. Industry has a choice now of qualified workers because of the vo-tech system. And I hope it continues to be that way."

R. Leo Carden



Robert L. Carden

*First El Reno Campus
Assistant Superintendent*



TECH REFLECTIONS: RHONDA REHERMAN

Rhonda Reherman was hired in 1991 as the first Practical Nursing instructor in a brand new program on the Chickasha campus. Reherman, who now serves as Canadian Valley's district coordinator for Practical Nursing, said she was excited to start an innovative approach to the program.

"We started the PN program as one of the first of its kind – open entry, open exit, individualized. Francis Tuttle Technology Center had an evening open entry, open exit, part-time program. But we were the first, to my knowledge, to do it full-time.

"This allows people an opportunity to attend a nursing program, work, and raise children, which is much more difficult to do in a traditional nursing program. Students completing our program are better prepared to work independently, which is a plus to starting a nursing career."

Reherman credits a supportive administration and staff for being one of the chief benefits at the school.

Her fondest memories are each time everyone pulls together to get things done as a team.

Reherman said she is proud to have contributed to nearly half of the school's 40-year history by helping turn out nursing students by the hundreds over the years.

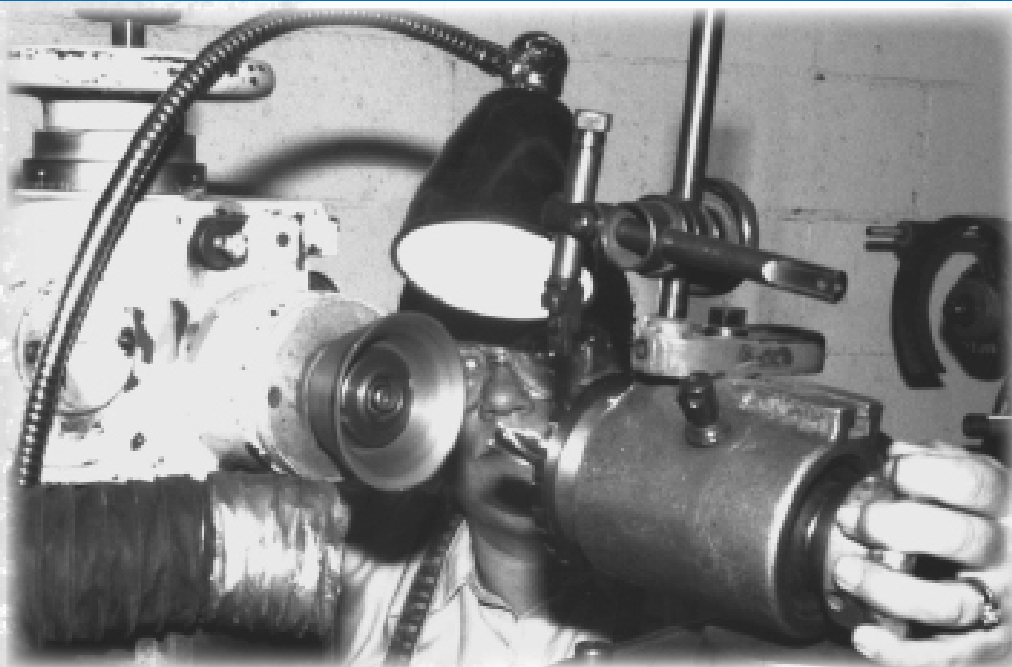
"When people ask me where I work I always answer with pride – Canadian Valley Technology Center – because we excel at what we do. Many PN program directors and coordinators envy the administrative support we get."



Rhonda Reherman
Longtime Practical
Nursing Supervisor

"(Open Entry, Open Exit) allows people an opportunity to attend a nursing program, work, and raise children, which is much more difficult to do in a traditional nursing program. Students completing our program are better prepared to work independently, which is a plus to starting a nursing career."

Rhonda Reherman



A 1970 machine shop student has his hands full.

AT RIGHT:
Computer
Repair
student
(now MIS
Coordinator)
David Lair
tinkers with
computer
guts in 1989.



TECH ARCHIVES:

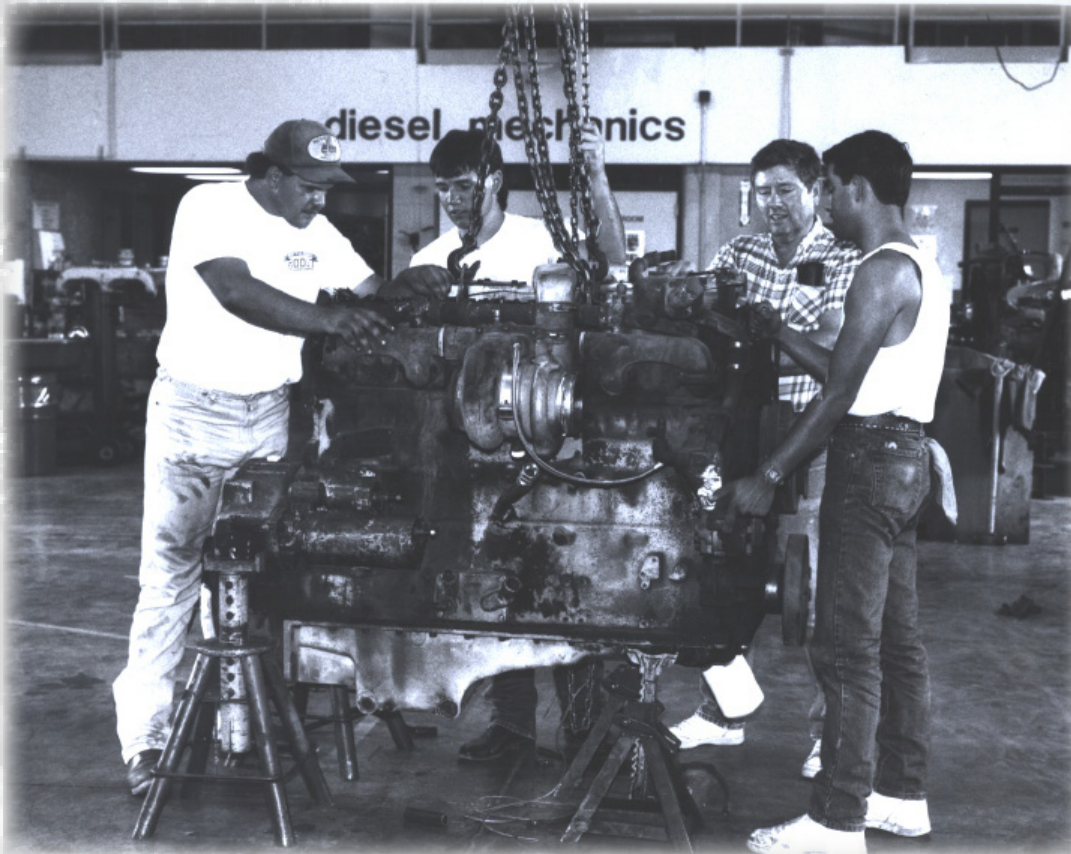


AT LEFT: Canadian Valley staff and faculty gather for a presentation of a flag by the Elks Club. Pictured (back, left to right): John Eischen, Durrell Knowles, Jay (???), Ralph Constain, Gene Watson, Harold Smith, Larry Jones and Carroll McNish.

(Middle row, starting at left): Faye Hobson, Imogene Fields, Ralph Rice, Iris Case, Roy Case, George Dusbabek, Wanda Wolf and Earl Cowan.

(Second row from bottom, starting at left): Serena Gililland, unknown lady, Nadine Remey and Hubert Remey.

(Front row, from left): C.J. Hansen, J.R. Gililland, Charline Von Tungeln, James Gibson and Bill Adams with the Elks Club.



Diesel students tackle a heavy job.



Instructor John Nail's Construction Trades students practice their masonry skills while dressing up a metal structure on the northeast side of the El Reno campus.

**TECH
ARCHIVES:**

EL RENO CAMPUS: THROUGH THE YEARS



TECH REFLECTIONS: CLARK MCCASKILL

In August of 1989 Clark McCaskill was hired to set up and administer an alternative education program. He later served as Project Connect director, then assistant director of student services, student services director and ultimately assistant superintendent until his retirement in June 2008.

McCaskill said he most appreciated the team effort exerted by Canadian Valley employees, which "operated as one big family joined together to make a difference in our students lives."

"This has been the best job of my life," he said. "I feel very privileged to have had a part in the development of many aspects of the district. We have added many new programs and been innovative in trying new things that have all been successful."

To take part in planning, developing and constructing the Dr. Earl Cowan campus has definitely been an honor and privilege. That campus is a very historical event that will likely become a model for others to pattern after in the future."

Project Connect, El Reno's ultra successful alternative program, was begun because the state legislature recognized there was a dropout problem that needed to be addressed.

"There was and still is a great need to serve students that are either dropping out or have dropped out of school," he said. "The students served by Project Connect have benefited greatly, because the life skills learned in the program have helped them all. Most of the students have learned a skill and graduated from high school. Their parents and the students themselves have stated over and over that "if it wasn't for Project Connect the student would not have made it."



Clark McCaskill
Former Assistant
Superintendent, El Reno

"There was and still is a great need to serve students that are either dropping out or have dropped out of school. The students served by Project Connect have benefited greatly, because the life skills learned in the program have helped them all."

Clark McCaskill

EL RENO CAMPUS: THROUGH THE YEARS



A high school student and an adult student work on an outboard motor in the former small engine repair class at Canadian Valley.



A Practical Nursing student checks the temperature of a patient using a mercury thermometer, while another student checks blood pressure.

**TECH
ARCHIVES:**



TECH REFLECTIONS: SUSAN HARDY BROOKS

Susan Hardy Brooks was hired as Canadian Valley's first public information officer in 1982. It was another three years before she got her first computer and the first desktop publishing software.

She recalls teamwork playing a key role in how things got done throughout the school.

"Canadian Valley was a place where everyone pitched in to get things done, whether it was Roy (Peters, then superintendent) pouring tea at an advisory committee dinner, Earl (Cowan, then assistant superintendent) stuffing envelopes for a big mailing, or everyone spending a campus clean-up day picking up trash, pulling weeds and doing a variety of other chores," she said.

Facilities, including office space, were not always readily available.

"Actually, there really wasn't a public relations office. I had failed to ask about my office when I was hired, so imagine my surprise on that first Monday morning when I was taken to my desk in the corner of the mail/copy/bookkeeping room," she said. "I didn't mind however, because I was right in the center of the day's activities and got the chance to interact with everyone who came by.

"Our close quarters probably enhanced our ability to work together as a team. We laughed a lot and, in spite of the many challenges of running a school district, we formed lasting friendships that remain dear to me to this day."



"Canadian Valley was a place where everyone pitched in to get things done, whether it was Roy pouring tea at an advisory committee dinner, Earl (Cowan, then assistant superintendent) stuffing envelopes for a big mailing, or everyone spending a campus clean-up day picking up trash, pulling weeds and doing a variety of other chores."

Susan Hardy Brooks

DR. PHIL BERKENBILE, STATE DIRECTOR

Q: How have Canadian Valley and Dr. Earl Cowan contributed to the CareerTech system as a whole?

A: Canadian Valley has been able to stay grounded in what it does with business and industry. Dr. Cowan always wants to know what Canadian Valley and CareerTech can do to help Business and Industry through course offerings and program opportunities. Earl is one of those people who is upfront; he lets you know what he thinks, and you always know where he stands on issues. He is very passionate about Canadian Valley and CareerTech.

Q: What significant changes have you seen take place at CVTC during your involvement in CareerTech?

A: In the last several years Canadian Valley has moved to a quicker response time to accommodate the changing needs of business and industry. Whether it is plant closings like Dayton Tire or Delta Faucet, Canadian Valley has been able to adjust and create training opportunities for the large number of people who lost their job. These situations give us (CareerTech and CVTC) a chance to promote our ability to be responsive to business and industry changes.



Q: Where do you see our district evolving?

A: Canadian Valley serves a wide range of clients, with Chickasha's campus serving a more rural population, and El Reno's campus serving a bit more of an urban area. The Cowan campus (Mustang/Yukon area) will serve yet another segment of the population which is even more urban. The programs offered there will be tailored to fit the needs of that growing area. The campus will still have many of the traditional programs, but with the new campus there will be new programs that will need to be considered for the future.

Q: What about the transfer of leadership from Dr. Earl Cowan to new Superintendent Dr. Greg Winters?

A: Both Dr. Cowan and Dr. Winters are very aware of what's going on. Earl is a leading expert on ad valorem taxes. He always has all the facts and figures and can tell you about anything that has to do with ad valorem taxes. Greg is also very knowledgeable. He has served as superintendent at two technology centers, one in an urban area and one in a more rural setting. He brings lots of talent, and also has a strong business and industry component.

Q: Any other thoughts?

A: We will really miss Dr. Cowan. He is one of those people whose opinion you really value. When Earl calls, it's because it's important, and I really listen to whatever he has to say. He's one of those people who brings a lot to the organization, and I love to just sit down and visit with him. He's got a lot of knowledge and experience he has shared over the years. We'll all really miss him.



TECH REFLECTIONS: PATRICK MCGREGOR

Patrick McGregor started at the Chickasha campus in 1981 and later moved to the El Reno campus where he worked until July of 2001 as assistant superintendent.

McGregor was hired as the director of student services, a job he performed at both the Chickasha and El Reno campus until 1986.

"I enjoyed the family-like staff," McGregor said. "Everyone was very supportive of each other. We all stuck together in times of crises and controversy. I loved going to work there everyday."

McGregor said he is proud the El Reno campus established its own Lions Club during his time there.

"This enabled our staff to participate in community service projects without leaving campus for the usual civic club luncheons, etc.," he said.

McGregor said he is proud to have worked alongside so many professionals who were so committed to the education and training of so many students.

"I worked very hard for Canadian Valley and the board of education. And Superintendent, Dr. Earl Cowan, took very good care of me as a professional and as a friend. God bless Canadian Valley Technology Center."



"I enjoyed the family-like staff, McGregor said. "Everyone was very supportive of each other. We all stuck together in times of crises and controversy. I loved going to work there everyday."

Patrick McGregor



WHAT'S NEW AT CANADIAN VALLEY?

A major step toward providing for the future needs of students in eastern Canadian County became a reality as the Dr. Earl Cowan campus early in the 2008-09 school year.

Initially the campus was referred to as the "New" Campus. Later, the East Campus name was adopted and eventually the Czech Hall campus name was adopted.

Ultimately, the board of education moved that the district's third campus should bear the man's name who dedicated 38 years of service (including the past 24 years as superintendent). The Dr. Earl Cowan campus is located at 1701 S. Czech Hall Road in the Mustang/Yukon area.

The 30-acre corner site is adjacent to a 50-acre tract owned by Mustang Public Schools.

The Dr. Earl Cowan campus opened with five full-time programs, including Biomedical Sciences, Computer Programming, Computer Aided Drafting/3-D Imaging, Health Careers and Pre-Engineering. Night classes for adults and industry training are also held at the \$11 million facility.



Canadian Valley board members, area legislators and staff gather for the groundbreaking at the new campus. Pictured (from left): board members Greg LaPat and Jimmie Vickrey, former El Reno Assistant Superintendent Clark McCaskill, Rep. Phil Richardson (R-Minco), board members George Fina and Dr. Sid Vaught, former Superintendent Dr. Earl Cowan, Rep. Ryan McMullen (D-Burns Flat), Rep. Colby Schwartz (R-Yukon) and Oklahoma CareerTech Director Dr. Phil Berkenbile.

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

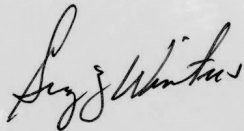
I would like to congratulate the current board of education, administration, faculty, and staff of Canadian Valley Technology Center for the recognition of our 40th Anniversary. I would also like to encourage everyone to remember the dedication and service of the countless people that have served this district with distinction for the past forty years. The stature and respect that is bestowed on Canadian Valley Technology Center is a direct result of their hard work and unwavering dedication to excellence.

It is also a very humbling experience for me personally to have the opportunity to serve Canadian Valley as your new superintendent. To be able to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Earl Cowan is a daunting task and a tremendous honor for me personally. I have had the privilege to work with Dr. Cowan for the past twenty-four years helping to shape the direction and commitment of the CareerTech system to be responsive to our customers, business and industry.

As we move forward as a district, we need to continue our commitment to quality training and service to our customers. Canadian Valley Technology Center will, now more than ever, be sensitive to the market-driven environment in which we live and work. We will need to be conscious of the rapidly changing demographics of our customer base and be able to respond to those needs based on their desires and needs. We will continue to provide high quality industry validated training programs and keep the “pipeline” of quality trained employees and future employees full.

As we look to the future, the supply/demand needs of business and industry will dictate the direction that we will move as a district. Our commitment to provide highly trained, highly skilled employees for the high-wage, high-demand occupations of the future will drive our program offerings. Our need to be responsive to the rapidly changing workplace, with the implementation of new processes and innovative changes to the way our customers do business will be paramount to our need to change as well. Our faculty and staff stand ready to provide these much needed employees to America’s workplace.

Sincerely,



Dr. Greg Winters, Superintendent



CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: Earl Cowan (center) stands proudly with then El Reno Assistant Superintendent Patrick McGregor (left) and current Chickasha Superintendent George Tiner receiving the school's fourth Gold Star Award.



A young instructor puts in a little extra time on a project.

Having traded a shop outfit for a coat and tie, Dr. Cowan introduces a new product sample on an unexpected crowd at a Christmas luncheon.

Earl Cowan, college graduate.



"Earl Cowan is one of the original skilled craftsmen-turned Trade and Industrial educators that started this great system of Career and Technology Education. He has always been focused on the development of excellent employability skills helping students be successful in the workplace."

Bill Hulse, Business & Industry Services Director, El Reno campus

EARL COWAN - THANKS FOR 38 GREAT YEARS

"We will really miss Dr. Cowan. He is one of those people whose opinion you really value. When Earl calls, it's because it's important, and I really listen to whatever he's got to say. He's one of those people who brings a lot to the organization, and I love to just sit down and visit with him. He's got a lot of knowledge and experience he has shared over the years. We'll all really miss him."

Dr. Phil Berkenbile, State Director, CareerTech



ABOVE: Earl Cowan and wife, Nancy, model their 1955 Mercury Montclair during free time in 1957 at their south Oklahoma City home.

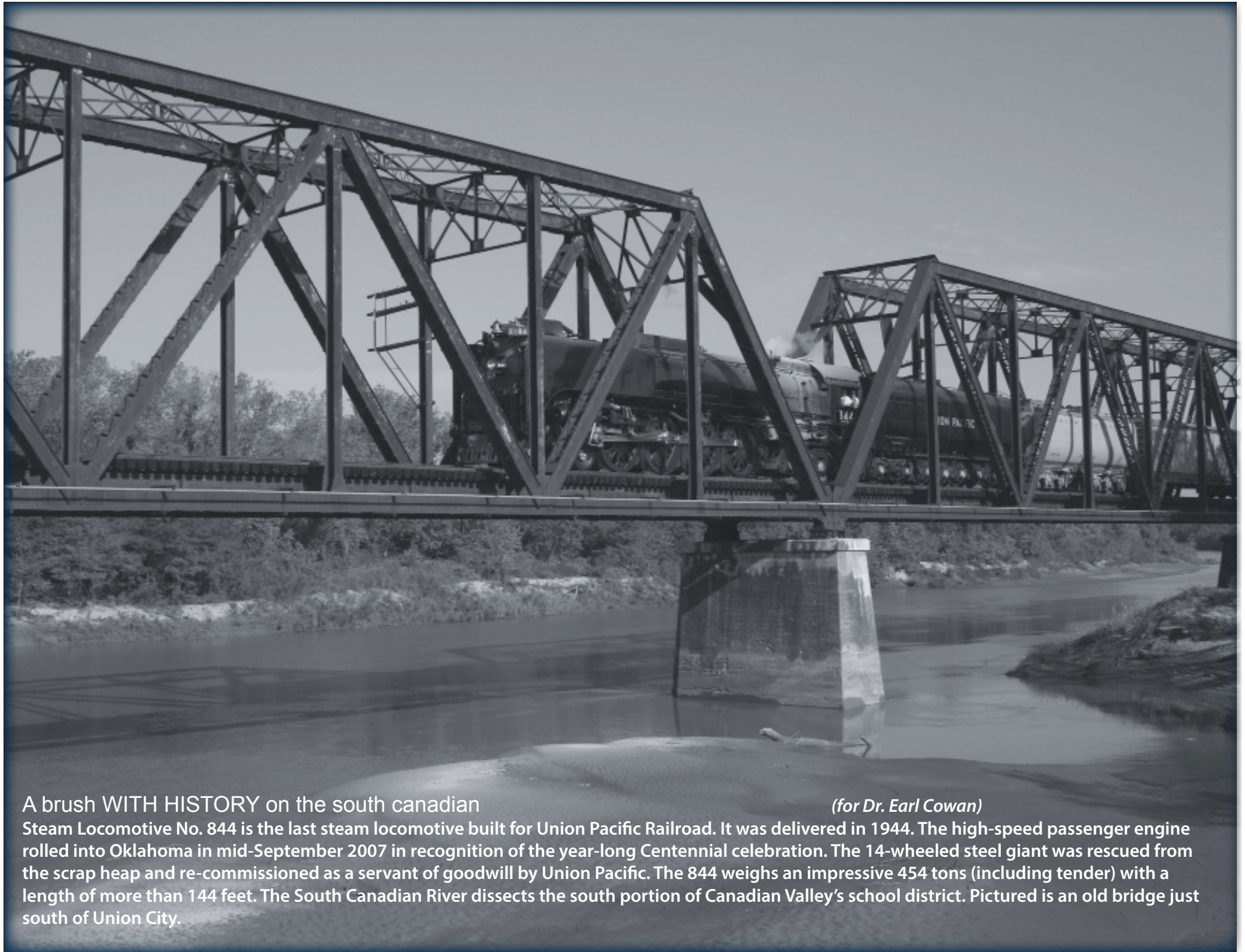
BELOW: Earl more recently with the 1940 Mercury coupe he restored.



ABOVE LEFT: A youthful Earl Cowan stands in front of a stock trailer he and his welding class students built in 1975. He said the trailer is one of several students built during his days as an instructor.



BELOW LEFT: Earl at his desk in 2007.



A brush WITH HISTORY on the south canadian
Steam Locomotive No. 844 is the last steam locomotive built for Union Pacific Railroad. It was delivered in 1944. The high-speed passenger engine rolled into Oklahoma in mid-September 2007 in recognition of the year-long Centennial celebration. The 14-wheeled steel giant was rescued from the scrap heap and re-commissioned as a servant of goodwill by Union Pacific. The 844 weighs an impressive 454 tons (including tender) with a length of more than 144 feet. The South Canadian River dissects the south portion of Canadian Valley's school district. Pictured is an old bridge just south of Union City.

(for Dr. Earl Cowan)